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Burma to release Suu Kyi 'for sure'

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Noy confirms dating celebrity stylist Liz Uy

SUPER / D2
Super Exclusive: 'Harry Potter' comes of age

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FEARLESS VIEWS

BACKHOE SAURUS A backhoe with a dinosaur painted on it starts digging the foundation for The Mind Museum, a futuristic structure that will rise in Bonifacio Global City in 2011. The building will house a 46-foot cast of the most complete T. Rex bones unearthed. Underneath it will be a simulated excavation site where one can dig for fossils. The museum will house over 200 interactive exhibits, each playing a role in five gallery stories that span the range of nature's elements—Azon, Life, Universe, Earth and Technology. It promises to be a world where imaginative minds can roam, a place that will fascinate as it will inspire.

'Overwhelming choice'

P-Noy: I'm 'like the bridge' in PAL row

By Christine Avendaño

TOKYO, Japan—President Aquino said there were "promising" signs that the ground workers of Philippine Airlines (PAL) would not go through with their threatened strike, indicating that he was unswerving in the labor dispute at the flag carrier.

Shortly after arriving here for the 18th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders' summit in Yokohama, the President said that he was brokering talks between PAL's management and its ground workers' union which is threatening to strike over the issue of job contractualization.

Mr. Aquino said he had met early this week with "several individuals, including representa-

PAGE A/8

LISTEN UP President Aquino and New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key adjust their earphones during Friday's Apec CEO Summit in Yokohama, where a displeased Mr. Aquino chided the US and other Western allies for issuing unverified warnings against travel to the Philippines.

P-Noy slams allies over terror alert

By Christine O. Avendaño

YOKOHAMA, Japan—President Aquino stunned the audience at a businessmen's forum here yesterday when he lashed out at the United States and five other Western allies for issuing what he said were unverified warnings of a possible terrorist attack in the Philippines at a time when it is trying to bolster its tourism industry.

The six countries issued the warnings without consulting his government, and less than two weeks before the launch of a new government tourism campaign, Mr. Aquino told the Apec CEO summit, a businessman's conference being held on the sidelines of the 18th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Leaders' Summit in the Japanese port city of Yokohama.

"Coming on top of the fact that we will be launching our new tourism logo on Nov. 15, can has to suspect the sincerity of some of our allies," Mr. Aquino said in response to a question from the audience.

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23 of 25 experts pick the Pacman to win

By Ray Luarca

GRAPEVINE, Texas—He absorbed volumes of punches from both Manny Pacquiao and Antonio Margarito and weathered them all.

Though he lost to both, Ghanaian Joshua Clottey believes Pacquiao will emerge the winner when they fight for the World Boxing Council super welterweight crown on Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) at the Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Arlington City.

"I know it's going to be a good fight, but I know for sure Pacman is going to win," Clottey told the website Boxing News. "(It's) not just because he beat me before but because he has more speed and he hits a lot harder than Margarito."

Of the 25 boxing experts polled by Boxing News that included WBC welterweight champion Andre Berto and International Boxing Federation welterweight titlist Steve Cunningham, on overwhelming 23 picked Pacquiao to win, 10 by decision and nine by either knockout or stoppage.

Only two trainers picked Margarito, reflecting the betting trend that puts Pacquiao at minus 550 and Margarito at plus 350.

That means that a $550 bet on Pacquiao will net just $100, while a $100 wager on Margari-

CONTINUED/A12

PH up a notch in S & P credit rating: From 'BB-' to 'BB'

By Michelle V. Rosca

STANDARD & Poor's raised the Philippines' credit rating by a notch, indicating its growing foreign currency reserves that served to boost investors' confidence in the country's ability to service its foreign debt.

The credit rating applies to the long-term foreign currency-denominated debt issuances of the Philippines. The rating was increased from "BB-" to "BB," two notches below investment grade.

"We have upgraded the

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RH DEBATE

Clinton: More babies a boon to Filipinos

By Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER US President Bill Clinton sees more babies as an advantage for the Philippines, whose exploding population is projected to reach 94 million by the end of the year.

That cheerful note was sounded yesterday by Pandakan Rep. Raïs Goitia, quoting Clinton who spoke on "the challenge of globalization" on Wednesday at the Manila Hotel.

As highly industrialized nations grapple with the economic and social costs of an aging population, Clinton noted that "you [Filipinos] have a huge population, which is a positive, and you have massive natural resources."

CLINTON/A11

CLINTON: Unwittingly thrust into the thick of the population debate

Eyewitness in bar blast gets threats

By Nikko Dizon

THE EYEWITNESS who identified the primary suspect in the grenade attack that injured close to 50 young people on the last day of this year's bar examinations has received threats from the man's fraternity "brods."

This was disclosed yesterday to the taxpayer by a highly placed government source, who said the witness, a law graduate who was among those who took the Sept. 26 bar exams, had sought his assistance.

EYEWITNESS/A11

CALL CENTERS

Not all sunlight bright in sunshine industry

By Cynthia D. Balana

THERE ARE the 400,000 seats that give hope to the country's newest sunshine industry where frequent "hellos" and "goodbyes" mark the high staff turnover rate and where young dreams are woven and false hopes are raised.

Welcome to the world of contact service centers in the Philippines—the phenomenon

NOT EVERYTHING/A-10

Christmas here for gov't workers but not for GOCCs

By Norman Bordadora and Ronnel W. Domingo

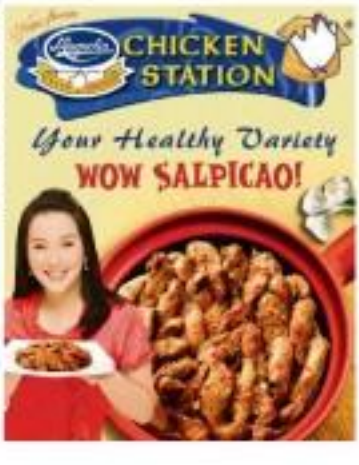
HOLIDAY CHEER is on its way, with government officials due to start receiving the second and last installment of their cost-

of-living allowance (COLA) and P5,000 cash gift on Nov. 15, according to Budget Secretary Florencio Abad.

But executives and staff of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) can't expect to be given the extravagant bonuses to which they have become accustomed.

Per Executive Order No. 7,

CHRISTMAS/A-11



Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

GMA, DBP probed for electioneering

Ombudsman out to validate claims by unnamed complainants

By Lolita B. Salaverria and Michelle Remo

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman is conducting a fact-finding probe on allegations from unnamed complainants that former President Macapagal-Arroyo had approved, less than a month before the May 2010 elections, a request from Development Bank of the Philippine officials that they be given the sole authority to increase their benefits.

The anonymous complainants, who only identified themselves as concerned officers and employees of DBP, said the move was a violation of the Omnibus Election Code, which prohibits the grant of increases in government officials' salaries and privileges 45 days before the regular election.

They added that it was also a violation of the antigrafi law, which punishes the causing of any undue injury to the government or the entity into any transaction that is manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the government.

Assistant Ombudsman Jose de Jesus said the Ombudsman's Field Investigation Office has been meeting to validate the claims raised by the complainants in a letter sent to the Agency in September.

The results of the validation could either lead to the filing of a complaint for preliminary investigation before the Office of the Ombudsman, or to the dismissal of the allegations, De Jesus added.

He said the complaint could not immediately be subjected to preliminary investigation, during which probable cause is determined, because the complainants were anonymous and the complaint was backed mostly by newspaper clippings.

He also said the fact-finding investigation would be conducted even if the complainants were unnamed because it was part of the Ombudsman's mandate to look into anonymous complaints.

According to the letter-complaint, the DBP Board of Directors, upon the advice of the DBP Management Committee, sent a request to then President Arroyo on April 12, 2010, asking for her confirmation of the DBP Board's power and authority to approve the implementation and refinements of the DBP compensation plan.

The letter, in particular, sought Arroyo's confirmation of the implementation of the compensation plan retroactive from 1999 onwards, the complaint said.

The complaint also noted that Arroyo had signed and approved the request of the DBP board, with a note in the margin of the request that said the approval did not include members of the board, and that the approval was valid until June 30, 2011.

The compensation plan provides for the integration of the officers' special allowances with their basic pay, the grant of annual merit increases, the grant of allowances and benefits for officers serving in DBP subsidiaries and the DBP early retirement incentive program.

These effectively increased the salaries, benefits and privileges of the DBP officials, the complaint alleged, and added that most of the complainants were earlier disallowed by the Commission on Audit for being highly excessive and unwarranted.

"Clearly, the foregoing acts of the DBP Board of Directors, the DBP Directors and that of President Arroyo contravened and contaminated on April 12, 2010, constitute a grave electoral offense," it said.

The DBP for its part said that there was no anomaly in the granting of incentives to its employees in 2010, saying that its employees were a result of its income performances last year, and that the former President never ordered a pay increase.

In 2009, DBP said, the bank registered a net income of P6 billion, a record high.

Leonardo Fernandez, DBP first vice president for communications, said in a phone interview with the business that there had been no increase in the salaries of DBP officials and workers for years. What employees enjoyed last year was a performance bonus resulting from the bank's favorable income performance.

DE JESUS

ARROYO

She said that under the performance-based evaluation system of DBP, exemplary performance is rewarded by a bonus for employees. Fernandez said the incentive was nonrecurring and was not permanent as it is dependent on the bank's income performance.

"There was no increase in compensation. There was just a performance bonus last year, which was justified by the bank's income performance," Fernandez said.

She said former President Arroyo did not order any increase in salaries of DBP employees.

The incentive was in the form of performance bonus, which was given to employees but not to DBP's board of directors, she said.

The complaint also alleged that the DBP Memorandum empowering Arroyo to grant the special privilege to the DBP board and management runs by itself "highly questionable and anomalous and tantamount to electioneering and partisan political activity."

It pointed out that Arroyo was a candidate in the May 10 polls, and insisted that the approval of the DBM Memorandum could have been done in exchange for support in the elections.

"Thus, it is not farfetched to infer that in return for the favor and privilege granted them by President Arroyo, the DBP Board and Management have allowed the use of the DBP's financial resources and other assets of the bank during the May 10, 2010, regular elections to support or promote the candidacy of President Arroyo and other candidates of the administration party," it said.

It also said that the DBP memorandum's "highly questionable and anomalous circumstance" was shown by the relative ease and speed of its approval, made on the same day it was officially brought into the Office of the President, it said.

The complaint also alleged that the DBP board and management violated Joint Resolution No. 4 which required agencies exempted from the salary standardization law to seek the President's approval before implementing any increases or benefits.

It pointed out that the same resolution requires the budget department's recommendation of the increases before the President's approval. But the DBP officials submitted their request directly to the President and bypassed the Budget Department.

Judge lets Ivler seek medical treatment

BOND FIXED: Senator Jinggoy Estrada (left) and Senator Jinggoy Estrada (right) are seen at the Senate session hall in Pasay City on Nov. 10, 2010. Estrada is detained at the Quezon City Jail, was allowed by a local judge to seek medical treatment at the East Avenue Medical Center for bleeding in the stomach from an earlier colonoscopy procedure.

Quezon City Judge Jaime Santos grants Estrada's request to allow the jail warden to "bring Ivler to the hospital under full security and bring him back to the jail after the medical treatment."

The order, issued Nov. 10, was served this morning to Supt. Nestor Valenzuela, the Quezon City Jail warden.

Virgen issued the order after Ivler's lawyer made the motion in a hearing last Wednesday that her client was "bleeding and [his] intestines were coming out."

The order did not indicate a date for Ivler's return to jail, but the judge has set another hearing for Nov. 24. Alexy C. Carvajal

Chavit links drug suspect to son's detention

137 Peace Corps volunteers vow to serve Pinoys

By Jerry E. Esplanada

A TOTAL OF 137 Americans yesterday vowed to serve Filipinos and "make a positive difference" in their host communities as they took their oath as members of the 269th batch of US Peace Corps volunteers in the country.

Seventy-one of them were sworn in by US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr. during simple rites at the Negros Occidental provincial capitol.

The event was witnessed by local government officials led by Gov. Alfredo Marañon, representatives of program partner agencies and the volunteers' host families.

At the Marañon complex in Bago City, 66 other Peace Corps volunteers were inducted by Santa Berenecruz, Peace Corps Philippines country director, and Leslie Bassett, deputy chief of mission of the US Embassy in Manila.

Like the other volunteers who came before them, they will be assigned only in various parts of Luzon and the Visayas, not Mindanao, for "security reasons," said embassy sources.

Thomas asked the volunteers to "know that the work that you will do and relationships you will form will continue to build on the Peace Corps legacy of making a positive difference in the world."

At the same time, the envoy thanked the volunteers' hosts "for opening your homes, your workplace, your communities to our Peace Corps volunteers."

"The volunteers are required to stay with their host families for a little over two years.

After Ghana in Africa, Peace Corps-Philippines is the second oldest Peace Corps program in the world, according to the US embassy.

Over 8,000 volunteers have served here since October 1961, the "most of any Peace Corps program" in nearly 140 countries worldwide.

The program traces its roots and mission to 1960 when then US Senator John F. Kennedy who later became president, challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries.

SinCash

as Benjamin Bodiser Yu, and Richardson Bondoc Ang, had a hand in his son's detention.

Jiaguan cited information that Liebing could be the source of the narcotics that Hong Kong authorities found in the possession of the Ilocos Sur lawmaker in the customs arrival hall of the Chek Lap Kok International Airport on July 11.

The young Jiaguan's arraignment is scheduled on Nov. 23. He is out on bail.

Liebing was arrested along with Arthur Ulavia, 38, an alleged member of the Pentagon Asia-Pacific Group (PAGC), after they allegedly tried to buy four capsules of heroin from undercover agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency as a Pasig hotel.

Ulavia said Liebing was caught receiving marked money as a transaction escalating a kilogram of cocaine, the NBI said.

The NBI also said two more kilograms of cocaine and a digital weighing scale were recovered from the suspects' vehicles.

"The suspects should stay in prison forever for they have destroyed a lot of lives and many people will be destroyed, like my son, (also in a victim, if they do not stay behind bars," Jiaguan told the Inquirer by phone. *Leonela Bulbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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2 gov't execs in trouble over non-filing of SALN

By Lala B. Salamero

FAILING TO properly file their statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) have landed an official from the Bureau of Customs and an official from the Home Guaranty Corporation in trouble.

The Office of the Ombudsman yesterday ordered the filing of criminal charges against Pat Angeli Seabill, a Customs Operations Officer, for 13 counts of violation of the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials and employees.

The Ombudsman found that Seabill unduly declared in his 1992 SALN a Tapestry kit that she had acquired earlier.

She SALNs in 1994, 1996-2000, and 2002-2005 also failed to include her husband's unlimited interest over two lots that he had inherited and one apartment in Pili (there).

Her SALNs from 1993 to 1995 also did not contain her undivided interest over a Tagum City property that she had inherited from her parents, the Ombudsman said.

But Seabill is the only one ill from charges that she had omitted from her SALN and had not filed her SALNs for 1988, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1990 and 2001. Those charges were dismissed due to lack of evidence.

On the other hand, Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) Department Manager Jimmy Lumbayao was ordered charged with one count of violation of the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials and employees for not filing a SALN. For reasons not even declaring certain assets and there counts of perjury.

The Ombudsman found that Lumbayao failed to specifically include three vehicles that he had acquired from 1999 to 2002 in his SALN.

It said he should have specified the kind and the correct acquisition cost of each his vehicles to be considered to have filed the SALN correctly.

It also said he falsely declared in his 1999 and 2000 SALN the acquisition costs of three lots in Mayfalden, a lot in Tagaytay and another in Bonlingcod, Binan. He also failed to declare a Mitsubishi he that he got in 2000.

Lumbayao was also found to have failed to file a SALN for 2004, which is the same year that he availed himself of HGC's early separation incentive program.

The Ombudsman pointed out that government employees are required to submit their SALN within 30 days from separation from office.

Amid calls for truth panel probe, CODE-NGO defends Peace Bonds

By Dexter L. Lucas

NINE YEARS after it raised P1.6 billion from its sale of Peoney Institution and Investment Certificates or Peace Bonds with the help of the national government, the Coalition of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) has stressed that the transaction was both legal and transparent.

At the same time, the controversial non-profit organization denied criticisms that the deal was a case of rent seeking, after it took on the role of the national government in the form of the Treasury and arbitraged the so-called Peace Bonds between the issuer and the buyers without adding value to the transaction.

"To begin with, we don't see anything wrong with getting funds from the capital markets," CODE-NGO chairperson Anna Rivas Karaos said, explaining the unique approach taken by the group in raising funds for its anti-poverty advocacies. "The rent seeking would have happened anyway. Others would have done it."

But last year, CODE-NGO executive director Joy Imelda Dongeto challenged the rent-seeking issue, showing that the transactions done in the early months of the Arroyo administration in 2001 was a "legal process, above board and transparent."

Despite these claims of legality however, the officials conceded that the ill-raising measure would be difficult to repeat because of the "bad press" it has received over the years.

Yesterday, the group said it welcomed and supported calls for the Peace Bonds to be included in the roster of Arroyo-era deals that would be investigated by the Truth Commission.

"We look forward to a transparent and independent investigation by the Truth Commission to put closure to this ridiculous issue which critics are now using to smear personalities who were not even involved in the transaction," the group said in a statement released during yesterday's press briefing in Quezon City.

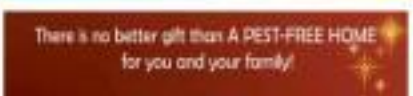
In particular, CODE-NGO officials said that critics of the deal have recently been hitting Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Treasurer "Ging" Deles in the deal because of "their close involvement in the meetings, negotiations and bidding or any other activity" related to the Peace Bonds.

"Secretary Deles never served as a board member of CODE-NGO," the group said. "The NGO she belonged to prior to joining government is not even a member of CODE-NGO or any of its members network."

"Secretary Soliman had served as chairperson of CODE-NGO from July 1998 to January 2001, prior to the design and duration of the bonds," the group explained. "It was under the multi-sulting leadership of Minister Corazon Juliano Soliman that Peace Bonds were accomplished and designed."

Comelec-Payes is the sister of former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho whose office supervises the Bureau of the Treasury—a situation that had potential conflicts of interest. The group pointed out, however, that since becoming Camacho recused himself from the deal.

Missouri pointed out that both the Senate and the House of Representatives have already "exhaustively investigated" the Peace Bonds in 2002, with the committees from both chambers failing to file reports "as they found no evidence of impropriety."



US ENVOY STATEMENT

VFA renegotiation will be thru diplomatic channels

By Carla P Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—US Ambassador Harry Thomas yesterday said that if the Philippines were to decide to renegotiate the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the United States, his government would do it "through diplomatic channels."

"The Philippine government and they would like to review it and that is their right," said Thomas who was here for the swearing in of 71 new Peace Corps volunteers yesterday.

The new Peace Corps volunteers are to be fielded throughout the Visayas. Sixty-three other Peace Corps volunteers were simultaneously sworn in in Iloilo yesterday.

A group of about 15 protesters opposing the VFA and what they called US military intervention in the country rallied outside the provincial capitol where the ambassador was.

When told about the picket, Thomas said: "We're so happy that we live in a country where people can protest freely without threat of violence, retribution or jail. That is what Americans and Filipinos fought for: independence. So, as people could express their opinions."

Thomas said the US has had a mutual defense treaty in place with the Philippines since the 1950s.

He said the VFA was a mechanism by which US forces could visit and train in the Philippines and allow US troops to visit and study in the US.

He said the VFA made it possible for the US to give $184.2 million to the Philippines this year, more than the assistance given to any other country in Southeast Asia.

"What is being given to the Philippines is triple the assistance to any other country in Southeast Asia," the ambassador said.

When asked about the security aspects of the Peace Corp volunteers assigned to different parts of the country, Thomas said the travel advisory issued by the US government only cautions Americans traveling to the Philippines.

He said that the travel advisory has been in place since 2000 and only advised Americans to take care before traveling to Mindanao and other areas, including Manila.

"If we did not think these people (the volunteers) would be safe, then we would look into it again. Our travel warning is constantly under review and has been in place since 2000," he said.

"The Peace Corps volunteers come here to find out about themselves, learn about themselves, educate themselves and see how they can live among others, and as the same time to help other peoples around the world," he said.

Peace Corps volunteers have been working in villages in the Philippines for a little over 49 years trying to raise the less fortunate, he added.

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SENATOR Manny Villar talks to Manuel Roxas (not in photo), one of those repatriated from Malaysia.

21 distressed OFWs return

TWENTY-ONE distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and five children came home yesterday after years of struggle in Malaysia.

The undocumented OFWs were either illegally recruited or entered the country as tourists and overstayed while engaging in various jobs there.

Flying by Cebu Pacific Flight No. 5J 532, the group was welcomed by Bagong OFW staff at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3. They later had breakfast with Sen. Manny Villar and relatives in a restaurant on Roxas Boulevard.

Villar said in his remarks that he became the magistrate of the problems of OFWs and his program is his own little way of helping the government in their repatriation effort and to provide assistance to OFWs in distress.

Bagong OFW is Villar's program addressing the welfare of OFWs. To date, it has repatriated hundreds and helped provide assistance to thousands of OFWs.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 13, 2010
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Francesco Xavier Cabrini

1st Reading: 4 Mc 7:1-2
Gospel: Lk 19:11-28

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should pray unceasingly and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor people. In the same town was a widow who kept coming to him, saying, 'Defend my rights against my opponent.' For a time he refused, but finally he thought: 'Even though I neither fear God nor care about people, this widow bothers me so much I will see that she gets justice, that she will stop coming and wearing me out.'"

And Jesus explained, "Listen to what the evil judge says. Will God not do justice for his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay in answering them? I tell you, he will speedily do them justice. Yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Commentary

Will God not judge in favor of his saints persecuted by us day and night for Jesus?

God's time is not our time. But prayer reminds us to accept the will of God in all its hourly and God's time points.

Thus, while we have grown beyond dismay to acceptance, God seeks us what we must need.

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WHOLESALERS & PROVINCIAL OUTLETS

COP ON BIKES Members of the Manila Police District raise after a head salute during the handing over ceremony Friday at the task group on anti-crime criminal unit at Police Station 11 in Binondo, Manila. The motorcycle cops will patrol Metro streets.

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Cops set out on bikes to fight street crimes, felons in Metro

By Nika Morales

POLICE DISTRICT 6 (Ermita-Malate) simultaneously set out its agents on motorbikes yesterday in a bid to counter thieves zipping along the roads on board motorcycles.

But Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), warned his men they would be ordered if they failed to arrest these criminals.

Bartolome explained that the deployment of its motorized answers (Bikers) was to boost the police presence in key shopping areas and along the roads as well.

"We are doing this in preparation for the Christmas season. As you know, people flock here during the holiday season," Bartolome said in a statement, referring to the huge number of shoppers in Binondo and Divisoria.

He led the Bikers send-off at the Binondo police station in Binondo with Chief Supt. Roberto Rosqueta, Manila Police District director, Mayor Alfredo Lim and city Rep. Joseph Ejercito.

Perennial headache

Thieves riding in tandem are a perennial headache for police interest of three criminals under their quick getaway by zigging through traffic after pulling off a heist. Usually, the person on the back of the duo is quick to retrieve personal belongings, either a bag or a cellular phone, while swerving past their prey.

Anticipating the influx of people in the holiday season is how approaching, Bartolome said it was important for police to further heighten its visibility in their areas of responsibility.

"The Bikers complement the foot and mobile patrols deployed by the different police stations in the metro," he added.

Bartolome issued a reminder warning to all the troops in the capital about failing to prevent crimes perpetrated by thieves riding in tandem despite the implementation of a number of measures such as Bikers.

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Search continues for missing crew of sunken cargo vessel

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Coast Guard rescuers, augmented by volunteers, continued scouring the waters around Itbayat island by land and plane following the sinking Thursday of a Panamanian cargo vessel bound for Indonesia.

Three of the Chinese crewmen of "Master Diamond" were rescued on Thursday, but rescue workers also recovered the body of another Chinese, according to reports relayed to Senior Supt. Rolando Asuncion, Ivatan Batanes police director. Rescuers are searching for 20 more crewmen.

The Coast Guard was alerted by a Chinese vessel which said they lost contact with the vessel after it set sail from Guangmuping, China, on Tuesday evening.

Chief Supt. Francisco Jose Villacorta, Cagayan Valley police chief, directed the Batanes police to submit updates regarding the rescue mishap.

Rains had soaked Cagayan and Isabela since Wednesday, but they stopped on Friday, allowing the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary Group and the Japanese Coast Guard to send a twin-engine Islander, the ships BRP EDSA Dos (SARV-002) and BRP Nueva Vizcaya (SARV-3002), and a Japanese Coast Guard ship.

The Japanese PSC Orion plane was also allowed to fly in the area to help in the search and rescue operations.

The ship was reportedly last seen to South Okinawa in Japan before it sank in Philippine waters. Filomeno Mangcot Jr. (with reports from Dennis Lacson)

Tzu Chi Foundation marks 16th anniversary

TZU CHI Foundation, Philippines, celebrated its 16th anniversary last Saturday with a simple but heart-warming program at the Ang Ili Hall Auditorium in Manila.

The program reminisced on the foundation's 16 years of cultivating Buddhist goodness in the Philippines and looked forward to finding more opportunities to cultivate Buddhist goodness in the country.

The rite was witnessed by 1,721 Tzu Chi volunteers, guests, benefactors and friends.

Tzu Chi Philippines chief executive officer Alfredo Li welcomed the guests with inspiring words that will truly opened the celebration.

Li emphasized that Bhante Master Cheng Yen has high hopes that the Philippines would give back the richness it received decades ago.

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Catholic school near Malacañang Palace partly damaged by fire

A BURNING candle left unattended caused yesterday an hour-long fire that gutted a two-storey house and partly damaged the Sto. Niño Catholic School in Manila, destroying some P1 million worth of property.

Fire volunteer Laurence Guillen, of the Star Market fire station, was slightly hurt while battling the blaze. He sustained a laceration on his right palm and was treated by medical teams dispatched to the site.

FO2 Lorde Hernandez, arson investigator of the Manila Fire District (MFD), said the fire started at around 2:40 a.m. at the ground floor of the two-storey house at 1444 Uli-Uli Street in San Miguel, owned by Gisella Concepcion Padilla.

Hernandez said the heavens that before the incident a tenant occupying one of the rooms of the ground floor, Rose Fonsang, had left a lighted candle unattended although the fuel gone out and slept over at a friend's house. The candle apparently toppled over and triggered the blaze.

"The electricity at the house had been cut since Oct. 26 for the residents' non-payment," the investigator said.

Hernandez said that firefighters were able to suppress early but the light materials of the house enabled the fire to spread quickly.

The flames even reached the left front side of the neighboring St. Jude Catholic School and the heat shattered the windows of the school building. Twenty families were evacuated. — Jeannette I. Andrade

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Police patrols set up along airport roads

By Alcuin Papa

IN A BID to end the criminal activities of the so-called "Bonded Gang," the Philippine National Police (PNP) said it would set up round-the-clock patrol on roads leading to and from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

PNP Chief Director General Ronal Bacalzo said the deployment of mobile patrols is a "strategic move to limit the movements" of the gang.

Bacalzo also noted that with the Christmas season, arrivals into the country of balikbayans and overseas Filipino workers from around the world are expected to increase.

The Bonded Gang has been known to victimize balikbayans coming from the airport. They usually deceive their victims arriving at late hours and tail the victim's vehicle from the airport. When the victim's vehicle reaches a dark and isolated area, the gang cuts the victim's vehicle forcing it to stop. The gang members then proceed to rob the victim at gunpoint.

Going their data, Highway Patrol Group (HPG) Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina said the Bonded Gang usually strikes during the hours between midnight and 6 a.m.

Bacalzo ordered Northern Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome and Espina to maintain the round-the-clock mobile patrols particularly along Airport Road in Parañaque City, C5 Road, Taguig, Diosdado Macapagal Avenue and other surrounding thoroughfares where remnants of the dreaded Bonded Gang are likely to strike again.

Motorized cops

The NCRPO also said it has fielded its Motorized Anti-Street Crime Operatives, while the HPG has added more mobile teams from the Regional Highway Patrol Unit-NCR for added police visibility and preventive patrol operations against carnapping, hijacking, highway robbery and kidnapping.

P8-M marijuana seized from 2 'highlanders'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AGENTS OF THE Manila Police District (MPD) intercepted before dawn yesterday some P800,000 worth of marijuana from two "highlanders" allegedly before they could transport the cargo to Cavite by bus.

Members of the MPD Sta. Cruz Station 3 arrested one of the two suspected drug traffickers identified as Policarpio Logañon, 29, of Mountain Province. The alleged robber's fellow passenger was able to escape.

Station 3 commander Chief Insp. James Shilih told the location that Logañon obtained the marijuana from somewhere in Benguet Province and had been ordered to distribute the illegal drug to Cavite and other areas in Metro Manila, particularly in Valenzuela and Caloocan cities.

Shilih said that the interception stemmed from a tip given by an informant, who gave details of the delivery including where and when the suspects are anticipated to disembark.

"The informant told us that highlanders were scheduled to go to Manila with a cargo of marijuana. He said that they were going to take a bus to Manila and, once here, transfer to a different bus bound for Cavite," the station commander explained.

The suspects were accosted by Station 3 policemen at around 4 a.m. at the Ormoc Bus Liner terminal at the corner of Dagonoy and Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz just as they were about to transfer to a different bus. The large packages they carried, officials said, gave the men away.

However, while police operatives were able to retrieve three large packages, Dispajo was able to escape. The policemen seized 11 kilograms of marijuana bricks concealed under layers of rags and placed Logañon under arrest.

Logañon remains in the custody of the MPD station 3.

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Church warns vs revival of human organ trade

a CBCP/ECPA official has expressed the alarm over the possibility of the country opening its doors again for kidney organ trade following an international conference on organ donation, which the Department of Health (DOH) helped organize last weekend.

Msgr. Melvin Castro, executive secretary of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Healthcare, on Thursday urged President Aquino to look into the matter and deadline the revival of an existing DOH policy banning foreign patronage in cash kidney donors from Filipinos.

"We are alarmed and even the Vatican was also alarmed that we had been receiving some communications [from Vatican] if we can represent the church of the Church is that it must," Olivares said over the Church-run Radio Veritas on Thursday.

He said similarly, the Bishop said the Church was not invited in the forum to convey its stand on the issue and that it could not "gate-crash" such an assembly.

Advocates against human trafficking feared that the two-day event, "Women as Investment Donation from Living and Deceased Organ Donors," could be an overture towards the adoption of a measure that would permit foreign patients to purchase organs from living non-related Filipino donors.

Olivares said the "tone of the conversation" appeared to be geared towards it as most of the speakers were proponents of buying and selling human organs, among the principal convenors were Health Secretary Esteban Ona, who also opposes "incentivized" organ donation.

"This could be in preparation of repealing the administrative order of the previous administration," said the prelate.

The health agency's undersecretary Eduardo Ochoa and Commissioner Cabral, issued two orders to fight organ trafficking in the country, particularly the selling of kidneys to foreign patients.

The administrative orders also reiterated its commitment to abide by the provisions of Republic Act on the Anti-Human Trafficking Act.

It also reiterated the ban imposed on foreigners from receiving organs from living Filipino donors and bans health professionals from engaging in kidney trade. —Jocelyn R. Uy

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DTI Direct 751.3330.

De Lima keeps mum on APO rant

By Nikko Dizon

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima said she did not want to "dignify" the tirades of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) fraternity against her, any longer as it might just affect the work of the Task Force Against Terrorism (TFAT).

At a press conference on Thursday, De Lima described the remarks made by the fraternity, whose members have been linked to the bus-canal bombing, as "maybe signs of desperation or lack of civility in professionalism."

If the APO, particularly member Perlito Reanzo, would like to pick a fight with her, she was not interested, De Lima said.

The NBI, a police department agency is investigating the connections between the late victim Eldel and the sophomore at the La Consolacion College in Manila in 2006 and the University of Perpetual Help in Manila last March 14.

De Lima said it was important for authorities to complete their investigation and identify all who were behind the three incidents.

"My dear, I don't want to be sidetracked by these trending comments," she said, adding that she would name "in due time" the fellow subjects in the Eldel-related blood oath case earlier identified as members of the APO fraternity.

The prime suspect in the bus-arson blast, Anthony Nepomuceno, an APO member, has been charged with multiple frustrated murders and multiple attempted murders.

Reanzo complained that "De Lima was treating the APO as the only Black terrorist group."

He wondered whether visiting former US President Bill Clinton would be one of the first suspects as were tagged as the mastermind of the bus arson blast as Clinton was a member of APO, an international organization.

The Manila Philippine chapter boasts several influential personalities like Vice President Jejomar Binay, who prominently donned Hapanauwan of any wrongdoing when he received the letter to the justice department two weeks ago.

BIG SALE!

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GUN SHOW
Director General Raul Bacalzo, chief of the Philippine National Police, inspects one of the assault weapons on display at the 2008 Defence and Sporting Arms Show which opened Friday at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. —JOVEN MANUEL CORONADO

2 oil firms make bid to supply fuel to AFP

By Dona Pazybegan

ONLY TWO oil companies are bidding for an P6-billion brand because contract to supply the military one year's worth of fuel and lubricants.

Petron Corp. and Batangas Refilling Station lost the deadline and submitted bid documents to the Department of National Defense (DND) on Thursday.

Two other companies that prequalified pre-bidding, Caltex Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Inc., were not able to submit requirements before the deadline.

Defense Assistant Secretary Ernesto Boac, chairman of the bids and awards committee, said they hope to have a series of award before the end of the year.

"It's very much because for the last several years we did not have any, that's another," he said.

He said they always ended up with failed bidding as the said because bidders can not comply with certain eligibility requirements. "There was also a time the prices exceeded the approved budget of contract, so there was no contract," Boac added.

The Department of National Defense had hoped to attract small oil players to participate in the bidding by breaking down the P6.09 billion bid contract into 11 "lots" or separate contracts.

The combined 11 contracts allocate P5.79 billion for fuel, P1.08 billion for aviation petroleum and lubricants and P303.61 million for lubricants.

Six companies were allowed to bid for all 11 lots or in just some of them, according to Boac.

But while the DBD created the 11 contracts separately, Petron and Batangas submitted only one set of bid documents for all 11 lots.

Boac said they failed to meet the eligibility requirements.

He said they deferred opening the submitted documents, to see if the offers will be the same if they re-bid to ask if the bidders can comply with the project requirements, until Nov. 25 to clarify documentary requirements.

The Bids and Awards Committee was supposed to open the bids last Thursday.

"I believe that we can correct this and the procedure that we have just gone through. We will no longer return the unbuilt and basic bid documents because the deadline has passed [... and] we will stay with that decision that we will not already accept other bids," Boac said.

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Woman nabbed at Naia for bomb remark freed

By Mike Navalsa

AIRPORT POLICE yesterday released a woman whom authorities apprehended on Thursday after making a stock reference to a bomb-while one of her luggage was being inspected under an x-ray machine.

Jeanelle Sangalang, 42, was brought into custody by the airport police in a thinking check at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 because I found the remark from the passenger, who was with her 14-year-old daughter.

Supt. Marcel Orendo of the aviation security group said Sangalang was released after authorities checked on her criminal record and some of the terminal's employees from Bataan.

Sangalang apologized to the police and vowed not to repeat her transgression, the official said, adding the authorities were also unable to establish a malicious motive.

The passenger was scheduled to fly to Italy via KLM on Thursday when she was apprehended after making the bomb remark as a warning checkpoint in the terminal. The check stood what the contents of her luggage were after it was found 'riddle' inside an x-ray machine. Sangalang reportedly replied in Filipino, "there's a bomb [where]."

Presidential Decree No. 1727 specifically prohibits persons from making "bomb jokes" to airports, carrying a penalty of five years in prison.

GMA son defends family's right over Negros hacienda

By Michael Lhuc

ARNOTO

THE SON of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has defended his family's right over Hacienda Rizalo in Negros Occidental following the issuance of the pharmacist's certificate of land ownership award (CLOA) to 68 former claimants by the provincial Registry of Deeds last Oct. 26.

In a text message, Camarines Sur Rep. Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo recalled that during the presidency of his mother, she had distributed around 2,000 hectares of Hacienda

He said that the Aquino administration had bestowed the right of peasants to own their lands.

"My father's family is very small owners of my mother's expiration of empowering farmers/land tillers. After all, my maternal grandfather, former President Diosdado Macapagal, abolished land tenancy by law and actively pursued land reform."

He said the late president was the "only Philippine president who came from peasant stock."

Rep. Arroyo, however, noted that the Aquino administration was going after Hacienda Baras despite President Aquino's "reaction" over Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac owned by the family of President Aquino's mother.

The congressman noted that what was being distributed by the Aquino administration was the "remaining land" of Hacienda Rizalo that is still undergoing legal procedures.

Hacienda Rizalo is a sugarcane plantation owned for decades by the family of Rep. Arroyo's father, former Pres. Gerardo Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The CLOA covered 148 hectares of the total 337 hectares' land in Calatrallan, Isabela, Negros Occidental, registered under the Rizalo Agro Industrial Corporation.

The company's president is Rep. Ignacio Arroyo and one of its trustees is the former First Gentleman.

The company filed an application w the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to convert the plantation into an industrial es. tate last June. DAR has yet to decide on the application.

Group wants Luisita farmers put under CCT

By Kristin L. Alon

HACIENDA LUISITA Inc. (HLI) farmers should be placed on the Aquino government's conditional cash transfer (CCT) program as they are vulnerable to hunger, an international food monitoring group said.

FoodFirst Information and Action Network (FIAN) International said farmers in Hacienda Luisita, a sugar plantation owned by the President's extended family in Tarlac province, rarely eat meat and only eat rice a day.

In its report, FIAN said vegetables and rice are the main staple in the plantation as meat and other ingredients are expensive.

"When money is not available, some families resort to making adobo for stand. This is the dish where the main ingredient (pork or chicken), is not present. Farm workers simply mix water and cooking oil for adobo. Others cook the rice with some of the ingredients in adobo like onion and garlic, still without meat," the report said.

Low-quality meals

Because the farmers do not have steady income and access to better quality food-stuffs is difficult, they tend to subsist on low-quality meals, the report said. This is a violation of their right to secure adequate food, FIAN stressed.

"That the farmers of Luisita are vulnerable to hunger is proved that the stark deficiencies appear favored by the HLI management failed to raise the farmers' standard of living, the findings said.

"The right to adequate food of Hacienda Luisita farm workers is continuously being violated. Food access is hindered by their inability to buy food due to inadequate income," it noted.

According to FIAN, the families in the plantation should be included in the government's CCT scheme as it would raise their income and consumption. Studies noted that household beneficiaries spend a bulk of the stipend on food.

Under the Philippines' CCT scheme, extremely poor Filipino families could get a monthly cash grant of P1,400 each from the government.

Under the program, families that meet the health/social education commitments will receive P500 per month. Parents must send their children under 5 years of age for medical check-ups and vaccinations.

Children in elementary school must get by deworming treatment at least twice a year. Parents must attend family development sessions and pregnant mothers must undergo pre- and post-natal checkups.

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P-Noy slams 6 allies over unverified terror alert

From page A1

Mr. Aquino said his government had already expressed its "displeasure" to the United States, Britain, Australia, Canada, France and New Zealand which issued similar travel alerts to their citizens last week expanding on their previous travel warnings for Mindanao to include Manila, the capital.

Australia, citing unspecified but what it described as reliable reports, said it may attack in Manila may be imminent.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key was sitting right beside Mr. Aquino at the forum where both were scheduled to speak on how Apec can advance economic integration.

Mr. Aquino said the Philippines was being "singled out as a pinoy to avoid" by the six countries.

"Third countries that have received particular terrorist attacks directed at tourists are placed on a category lower than the Philippines. Countries that have harbored terrorists are placed at a lower terror alert," he said.

He said he could not understand why "on a basis of a report that not only talked about a threat that was very diminished" by previous Islamist, jihadist attacks suddenly get so much credence that unfortunately was played up by the media."

Confidential assessment

A Filipino official told the Inquirer News on Wednesday the warnings may have come from a confidential terrorist threat assessment by Western security officials indicating Filipino extremists may attack a popular Manila mall, a clash center and political figures, including Manila-based Asian diplomats.

The official, who monitors security threats, spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Aquino said the information may not have been verified.

The Thursday night, Mr. Aquino told reporters how else the government was acting up a non-protocol with the embassies of Australia and the US that would allow more coordination when such terror warnings are issued. "We never have a repeat of what happened."

Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang sought to downplay Mr. Aquino's statement, saying that the President was just "answering a question and you can see on their faces people in the region feel that way."

"He was just answering a question, it was not something that he volunteered. So I think people will understand," Carandang told reporters.

Zero tariff

The question about travel alerts was asked after Mr. Aquino delivered a speech on his views on regional economic integration.

In his speech, the President said the country had been a "beneficiary" from the move open environment for trade and investments.

"At the beginning of this year, we have reduced to zero 50 percent of tariff lines for Association of Southeast Asian Nations members and economies with which Asean has free trade agreements," he said.

But he said the benefits of free trade and investments should also benefit the poor.

He said his government has put in place programs "to make growth more inclusive by investing in education, health care and conditional cash transfer programs for the poorest segments of our population."

And to be able to continue doing so, "we still need help building our capacities," he said.

He said the private sector needs to be "more outspoken" while the public sector's ability to facilitate trade must be improved."

He invited the businessmen gathered at the forum to participate in the private-public partnership (PPP) mechanism to be held in Manila on Nov. 30.

"We are open for business and we look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with you," he said.

He explained that his government was seeking private sector support to meet the country's infrastructure needs, leaving the government to focus on social concerns.

$3.78 investments pledged

Three Japanese business groups yesterday told Mr. Aquino that they were interested in expanding their business interests in the Philippines, particularly in infrastructure and power, according to the state-run Radio Television Network.

Details of the new investments will be announced by the President when he returns to Manila, Palace officials said.

Mr. Aquino met with chief executives of the Mitsubishi Corp., Itochu Corp. and Sumitomo Corp. ahead of the Apec leaders' summit which opens today.

Carandang said he could not state the amount of investments pledged by the Japanese firms as the figures were still being finalized.

Earlier yesterday, the government-run RTN which covered Mr. Aquino's meetings with the three Japanese firms, had informed reporters that the pledges of investments totaled $3.845 billion.

Marubeni

The bulk of the pledges was said to have come from Marubeni Corp., which plans to invest $3.4 billion in power and transport projects.

Electronic giant Toshiba is investing $335 million, while Itochu is investing $222 million for paper cone project in Isabela, RTN said.

"There are some clarifications that were sought by some of the businessmen and we will need to make some of those clarifications before we can really make any kind of definite announcements," Carandang said.

Shortly after arriving from Manila on Thursday night, Mr. Aquino told reporters in his Tokyo hotel that he expected a "sizeable" amount of investments from his trip here, even bigger than the $1.4 billion new investments he brought back from the US last September.

Mr. Aquino is the only Asean president to attend the Apec meeting in Japan.

Carandang said the four Japanese firms were all invited to attend the private-public partnership (PPP) conference on Nov. 30. **With AP**

PH up a notch in S & P credit rating: From 'BB-' to 'BB'

From page A1

Philippines based on its steadily improving external liquidity profile and the underlying strength of its external accounts, which increasingly mitigate the vulnerabilities posed by still high public and external debt," Agnes Bernard, credit analyst of S&P said in a statement.

The country's huge foreign debt stood at $57 billion as of end-June.

The rating has been assigned a "stable" outlook, which means it is likely to stay the same at least for a year.

For the country's long-term peso-denominated debt instruments, S&P maintained the rating at "BB+."

The credit rating fix is said to be an increase in the country's foreign currency reserves would be enough to cover debts maturing within the short term.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier reported that the country's gross international reserves (GIR)—the amount of foreign currencies managed by the central bank—reached $56.09 billion as of end-October.

The amount is almost equivalent to the country's total foreign debt.

The latest GIR figure would be enough to cover 10 months worth of the country's usual imports.

The country owes its growing international reserves to 9% spree working abroad. Workers continued to remit their earnings even at the height of last year's global financial turmoil, helping the country post decent growth levels.

Also, the country has been experiencing a surge in foreign capital inflows, helping push up the foreign currency reserves.

Bulk of the capital flowing in is in the form of "hot money" invested in the Philippine stock market and portfolio investments.

There has been an unusual increase in foreign portfolio investments this year due to the bullish outlook on the Philippines and other Asian economies.

The BSP on Thursday reported that there had been a net inflow of $2.3 billion in hot money during the first 10 months of the year. It was 387 percent higher than the $358 million seen during the same period last year.

The recent inflow greatly affected the peso, prompting the BSP to heavily engage in dollar buying to temper the rise of the peso currency, said foreign exchange traders. The dollar buying, in turn, helped boost the country's GIR.

S&P also noted the sound debt payment schedules of the Philippines—most of the country's debts have long-term maturities.

"The accumulation of foreign exchange reserves and manageable debt amortization schedule combine for income ratios among external liquidity that remain quite strong relative to the Philippines' peers in the 'BB' category," Bernard said.

S&P is heavily engage in global trading

Christmas here for gov't workers, not for GOCCs

From page A1

the bonuses for directors and trustees of GOCCs and GFIs remain suspended although the review of their controversial compensation packages is almost complete, Abad told reporters.

He said Status executives should be guided by their respective charters in seeking answers to questions regarding Christmas bonuses.

The first installment of the state employees' cash gift worth P5,000 is not yet applicable across the board, and 13th-month pay requirement for a month's salary was given out in May. The Department of Budget and Management has released P12.8 billion to fund the second installment.

"All employees of the national government, with certain exceptions like consultants and job-order workers, will be taking home this pay for the holidays," Abad said.

Salary increase

Said state workers can expect adjustments in their basic pay, thanks to the Salary Standardization Law that was implemented effective on July 1.

Abad said the budget department would release an additional P21.7 billion to fund salary increases for national government employees.

Budget Circular 2010-07 provides additional pay for government personnel on regular, contractual or casual status, whether in agencies or elective posts.

The circular also covers the military and police, as well as personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Philippine Coast Guard, and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.

Abad said employees of local governments and government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) will not be entitled to these benefits, but these will have to come from their respective local government and corporate funds.

He said those not entitled will not receive employees' refund moneys and said funds set aside for the legislated allocation for personnel services would not receive additional pay.

These include consultants and hired experts, laborers hired through job contracts, and those paid on piecework basis, as well as student workers and apprentices, he said.

Abad also said the budget department was studying recommending to President Aquino the grant to national government employees of an additional "holiday bonus" in the form of the productivity enhancement incentive.

As of the end of September, Malacañang had spent P258.8 billion more than its budget, which is about 8% percent of the expected full-year budget deficit of P325 billion.

Under scrutiny

With their extravagant bonuses becoming the subject of a recent Senate inquiry, GOCC and GFI executives are expected to do a bit of ball-tightening.

"[Since] they are now under scrutiny, I think they will be more prudent in the kind of Christmas bonus package that they are going to give their employees," Abad said.

"Of course, the boards' benefits are suspended," he said, adding that this review and recommendations of the technical working group were almost done.

Abad said discussions with the private sector were being conducted in order to determine the reasonable bonus levels for GOCC/GFI directors and trustees.

"The benchmark is the private sector—the comparative private sector pay," he said.

Clinton: More babies a boon to Filipinos

From page A1

Golez capitalized on the statement to fall back at his colleagues advocating the passage of the long-pending reproductive health (RH) bill that upholds maternal health and seeks to provide couples an informed choice on various methods of family planning.

"Obviously, Clinton can see and understand what pinoys—the people, our children and our babies, present and future, are assets and not liabilities," Golez said in a text message.

The Population Commission says that some two million Filipino babies are born annually, representing a population growth rate of 2.04 percent.

'Much brighter' prospects

At a press conference on Wednesday, House Minority Leader Edcel Lagman said he was confident that the RH bill would be passed by Congress this time around.

Lagman said the prospects were "much brighter" for the bill's passage, with an explicit commitment from the leadership of the House of Representatives to back the measure, including subjecting it to a plenary vote, and President Aquino's supportive stance vis-à-vis family planning.

But Golez disagreed.

"From a check of the records, the 301 bill [House Bill No. 301] has only 96 authors. It's a far cry from the more than 100 that the RH author was boasting of in the last Congress," Golez said, adding:

"Perhaps that's the reason they are already talking of substituting the measure's plebiscite. They lack the numbers in the house.

"Frankly, I don't know how a nonconstitutional amendment can be the subject of a plebiscite, but if they can find a formula, I welcome a general public debate on the issue in every corner of the land."

Apart from HB 96, five others have been filed, all seeking a strong family planning program backed by the government to ensure a better quality of life for Filipinos.

The bills seek to provide couples access to all family planning information and services, including contraceptives.

But Golez said he was puzzled by the decision of the opponents of the RH bill to refer the measure in the House committee on population and family relations.

"The other question is: Why is the RH bill, primarily a health bill, in the committee on population and not in the committee on health, where the author first has been repeatedly saying that it is not a population control measure but [one to] redound to save lives?" Golez said.

"Are they afraid of the many doctors and medical practitioners ready to come out to talk about the health hazards of contraceptives, which even a World Health Organization study claims may be carcinogenic?" he said.

Citing the rules of the House, Lagman has insisted that the committee on population was the "proper committee" to handle population measures.

The committee has calendared the RH bill for hearing on Nov. 24 and Dec. 8.

Hardline Church

The Catholic Church's hardline stance against artificial means of family planning such as contraceptives, condoms and pills has served to block the passage of the RH bill in past Congresses.

The Church, which abhors only natural family planning methods such as rhythm and abstinence, firmly opposes the bill, which it has branded as "unfair."

The Catholic bishops' Conference of the Philippines recently tangled with Malacañang on the RH issue, but later agreed to a cease-fire to pave the way for a series of dialogues that began last month.

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SCHEDULE OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS: 8:00 a.m., Saturday, December 4, 2010

Ahead. WHERE LEADERS PLACE THEMSELVES.

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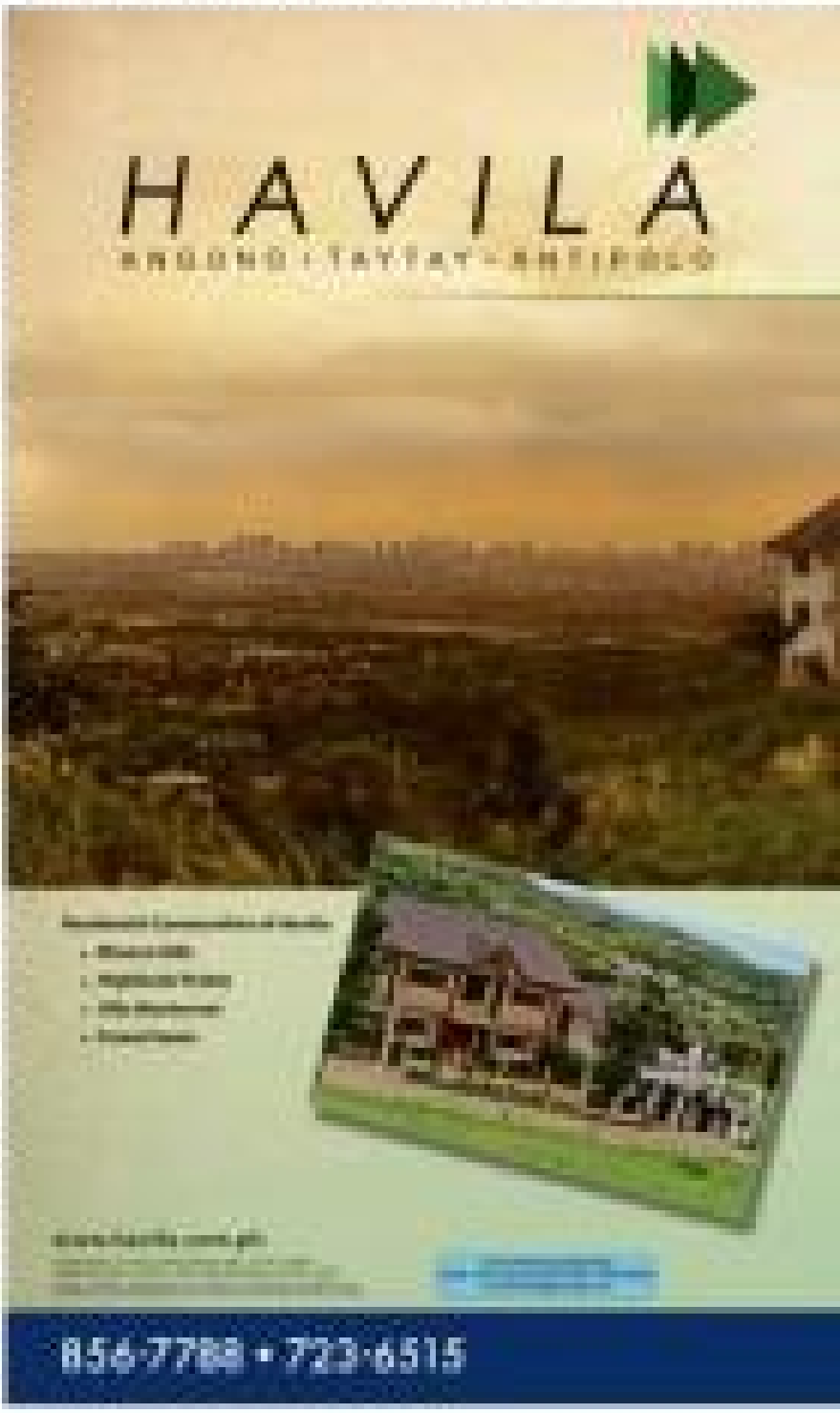
'Overwhelming choice' by boxing experts

Two days before fight, Pacquiao goes for a



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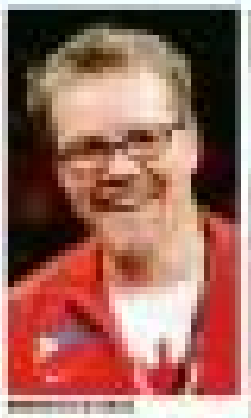

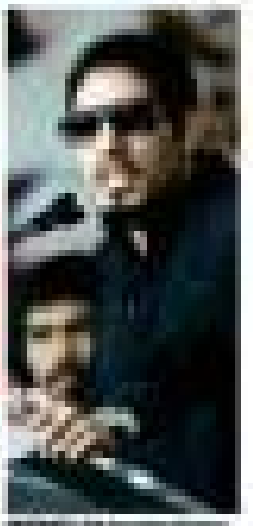

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FILINVEST

100 million praying for Pacman victory

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

A white elephant?

"WHOSE dime C-5." That is how architect Felino Palafox described the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport (Apeco) in Casiguran, Aurora.

C-5 is the controversial P600-million road extension project linking the South Luzon Expressway to Secat Road in Parañaque and funded by a double entry in the 2008 budget, half of it in the form of "congressional initiatives" by Sen. Manuel Villar. Critics claimed the road was diverted to benefit several housing projects of real estate companies owned by Villar and his family.

EDITORIAL

Apeco, on the other hand, is a P1-billion economic zone that is intended to boost social, economic and industrial development in Aurora and nearby provinces. "It will bring the entire Luzon to the Pacific," said Sen. Edgardo Angara, who authored the bill creating Apeco together with his son Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara.

Apeco apparently is the senator's pet project, behind which he does not hesitate to throw his power and influence. Last year, as chairman of the Senate committee on finance, Angara sliced off P650 million from the allocation for debt service and added it to the P350-million allocations for Apeco proposed by Malacañang. But for some reason, the heavily fattened park for Apeco fortuitously remained frozen during the Arroyo administration, leaving the economic zone with only the original P350 million to spend this year.

Palafox, who was originally hired to prepare the master plan for the project, now seems to think putting more funds to Apeco would be like throwing good money after bad. "It's a good project, but it's at the wrong place and at the wrong time," he told the Senate subcommittee hearing the Aurora budget Thursday.

And what's wrong with the project? Plenty, according to Palafox. For one thing, no adequate feasibility study or business plan was done before it was undertaken. Neither were there any engineering or hydrologic studies done nor were there plans for an airport or seaport. Other groups have also opposed the project on the grounds that it would displace 3,000 families, including indigenous Dumagats, shift land use away from food production and lead to historic right disputes.

But for Palafox, the biggest irregularity was the relocation of the project to a place that is not only far from the town proper but also prone to flooding and liquefaction. Under the original plan drawn up by his company, there would have been no need to build access roads to Apeco. But they were directed to move the location further from the poblacion, Palafox said. And they would insist later that part of the land in the project's new location was owned by Benjamin Mitra, the provincial environment and natural resources officer. It was Angara who was "running the show," he added. "It turned out that the owner of the property was one of their own," Palafox said.

Angara, however, explained that it was but natural that he would be involved in the project because it was he who "shepherded" it through Congress. "I have a natural stake in Apeco," he said.

If Palafox is now criticizing the project, Angara said, it was because the services of his company were terminated after the plan, for which it was paid P52 million, was disapproved by various government agencies. "Palafox is a very boastful and dishonest person," he said.

Maybe Palafox is all that, but that does not answer any of the issues he raised. He has not only questioned the financial aspects of the project but also raised doubts about the soundness of locating Apeco where it is now. And he has feared that somebody profited handsomely from the decision to relocate the economic zone.

Whether Apeco is just another white elephant, and a dangerous one at that, is certainly worth looking into. Do we hear anybody in the Senate seeking a deeper inquiry into this matter, like it did with the C-5 project?

But wait, all the acrimonious debates in the Senate on the C-5 project actually produced nothing useful except to help torpedo Villar's chances of becoming president. So maybe, some other agency should look into Palafox's claims and maybe help save precious taxpayers' money.

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Inevitable option?

PALO ALTO, California—Is "tourism history" inevitable?

The question arises as the well- and I follow two granddaughters Alexis, 9 and Tai Noelle, 6, (their dog, Jump and skip) through the boardwalk to Memorial University's Memorial Chapel for Mass.

Americans are restive over the sibling rivalries. But the United States remains among countries that top the list in overall well-being, notwithstanding the 2008 UN Human Development Report (HDR).

The HDR 20-year 1970 UN monitory status. It began to measure well-being beyond one-dimensional yardsticks like per capita income in the 1990s. Economist Mahbub Ul Haq insisted on "the simple yet powerful idea that development must be about more than income."

HDR factors in health, education and life expectancy. These new gauges are stitched into the 20th anniversary survey. Inequality, gender equity and poverty.

"Human development is the real wealth of nations" is the report's theme. You see that in Alaska and Tai's Noelle.

Born in Palo Alto, Alaska receives the services of an advanced country: comprehensive health care, nutrition, safe water, education, etc. to our barangay status, some kids won't even get a nursery door.

Tai Noelle was also adopted from China when she was 11 months old. She has passports from China, the United States and Sweden from her dad, and the Philippines from her mother. Tai enjoys similar benefits as Alaska—and later, political freedoms too.

China's annual sustained economic growth that lifted tens of millions out of grinding poverty, 1978 says. But keeping lagged in health and schooling. Indonesia and Laos achieved impressive progress in health, education and income. So did Oman, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Bhutan, South Korea, Algeria and Morocco.

"Leaders" in descending order, were Norway, Australia, New Zealand with the United States in fourth place. Then come Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Canada, Sweden and Germany.

VIEWPOINT

Juan J. Mercado

In Sub-Saharan Africa, millions are food short, lack schooling and are plagued by diseases preventable by clean water and sanitation. Zimbabwe landed in dist 1085. Robert Mugabe's do-nazi-dep cannot prices to double in 25 hours, given a hyperinflation of 98 percent, a Johns Hopkins University study reveals.

Filipinos, featured by "Today" and other stories, will find that HDR's stunning on advocacy when it comes to climate change.

Climate change impacts on grain yields. It could more than double the price of wheat—in a worst-case scenario. By 2050, per capita consumption of cereals would fall by a fifth, leaving 24 million additional children malnourished. Any of our readers think that fair?

The Philippines ranked 97th in this survey. We are marginal between Paraguay on one end and Indonesia on the other.

Filipino life spans are 74 plus in La Union, the Philippine ISO Report finds. The shortest lives are still in Tadu and Tauri Tawi. Overall, life expectancy by Filipinos is now 72.5 years. Compare that to 79 for South Koreans.

Life expectancy for South Koreans dropped from 71.5 years to 64.1. Similar slumps were noted in Congo, South Africa, Zambia, Lesotho and Swaziland. The main causes were AIDs and armed conflicts.

Life spans also contracted in some parts of the former Soviet Union, notably: Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. "The reasons were harder to gauge," New York Times admits. HDR noted that alcohol consumption is correlated with these declines. Maybe a hankering for democracy was the likely cause.

Among Asean member nations, oil-rich Brunei came in at 37th. Singapore teamed at slot 27. Crowned by a much-faced meritocracy, it concentrated on medicine, pharmaceuticals and rule of law former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew told Der Spiegel.

Thailand is at slot 92. As the tsunami-ravaged archipelago flutters with rank 132. Life expectancy is only 62 years in a national measure—still one year short of schooling in the pathetic measure.

Burma's perennial pariah rules by the guns of the Tatmadaw. Three soldiers, were the words, sent 15,000 refugees fleeing into Thailand as protests broke over Burma's first sham elections since 1990.

The Philippines finds itself in the middle—far short of its potential. There is a consensus that its piddling performance in reversing a basic life for its people is due to the stranglehold of the oligarchs: from the Aenyas, Ayalas, Sorianos, Cojuangcos, Zobels, Lopezes and down to multitudes like the Ampatuans.

Are they 11 families? Or 216? So one agrees on the exact number. But their hands-like rule shuts out Mindoro and Tad Southeast Asian more business standards of living.

There is an ideology of culturally documentation from Alfred McCoy's "An Anarchy of Families," Paul Hutchcroft's "The Politics of Patrimonial Plunder," Cornell Benedict Richard Anderson's "Cacique Democracy in the Philippines: Origins and Dreams," to Belinda Aquino's "Blunder of Politics."

"Filipinos are among the most wonderful people in the world," Anderson writes. "But unfortunately they do not find anything better outside the circle of the oligarchs."

Oligarchs have been unanimous in the past. Even Pacific Strategies and Assessments (PAS) continued, barely two months before Ferdinand Aquino's six-year term: Reforms promised will likely falter.

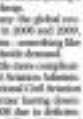
"The odds are really stacked against him," says PAS's study, which is titled "Chasing a Legacy: Assessing Aquino's Ability to Impact Change." Like Lee Kuan Yew's Senior Minister Goh Chong Tong would be trashed.

"Onanian history" will replace autonomy—at the cost of our children.

(E-mail: jamvillan.ads@gmail.com)

Déjà vu at PAL

GET REAL



Solita Collas-Monsod

GOREA company have the right to resist seizure by organization, weed out redundant employees, and restrict use of "outsourcing" a business function that used to be performed in house, to an external provider? Of course, was the universal reply from those I asked. So Philippine Airlines (PAL) has the right, according to Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz, and she and PAL have been fiercely defending their economic decision respectively.

Does a company have the right to terminate all of its employees—especially its top brass—in the middle of service, employment, and then hire them back, directly or indirectly, at entry-level wages and no seniority privileges? Of course not, was the universal reply. Lawyer Leno Espinosa was one of those I asked, and she was emphatic about it. So PAL was wrong on this, according to its own phrase, because that's what it is doing.

How to reconcile these two seemingly opposite situations? Simple, say the employees. Certainly not, will be "outsourcing" (Situation 1). But the outside company is really as much controlled—owned, controlled or operated by Lucio Tan, his family or his dummies. Smoke and mirrors and corporate veils are being used to disguise the situation, but the end result is the same: employees terminated will be rehired at lower wages, and non-seniority (Situation 2).

Have the employees found the right forum for their self-inflicted problem? Maybe not. The Supreme Court has ruled that the price of oil should go through the roof (over $130 a barrel). PAL management has that power, would go up, so it sought to sell foreign-owning carrier powers against its own deliveries. It lost the bet, i.e., prices went down instead of up, and PAL took a beating on both—names of the loss ranged from $1.58 million to over $300 million.

The reader will notice that the reasons for PAL's losses in 2008 and 2009 are supported by Business. And nothing to do with high labor costs. So why is labor bearing the brunt of the losses?

How is the point, how much is supposed to be the cost savings attached to the labor retrenchment? Again, from news reports, this will be something like $50 million—or all of 0.7 percent of PAL's total losses.

To date, PAL has laid 1,000 rankers, through no fault of theirs. Is it fair, is it right, that as an excuse to take out labor (that just coincidentally comprises "0.percent of PAL Employees' Association [Palea], the labor union, and most of its officers), even though the "outsourcing" scheme will supposedly redound to the benefit of the remaining 6.7 percent.

One cannot help but conclude that this is nothing but a union busting move. And yet Secretary Baldoz swallowed the PAL version hook, line and sinker.

The irony of it is that the whole ugly mess grew apace with a long-overdue turnaround of PAL. Twelve years ago, PAL did the very same thing—terminating pilots and flight crews—over 1,000 employees. PAL made the same disingenuous cynical from the main financial crises. It first relieved a great number of them—but at very low wages, loss of seniority (and for the pilots, a promise not to form a union). PAL sold off its profit centers to his owned companies, terminating the PAL employees in the process, and then rehiring them at lower wages and no seniority. And managed to swing a 10-year concession of the NAIA MIA/Nabia.

An excerpt from the 2000 Supreme Court decision ordering PAL to reinstate the 1,800 or so flight crew it had terminated, says it all: "It was unfair for PAL to have made such a move, it was capricious and arbitrary, considering that seven of the terminated employees who had long been working for PAL had lost their jobs, only to be recalled but assigned to lower positions, and, worse, some as new hires, without due regard for their long years of service with the airline."

The unique feature of this PAL fiasco is the unusual deal that there is no secrecy of labor, per se of management. And that the LE in HOLE stands for "labor" and "employment," not for "labor exploitation."

Assessments, expert and democratic

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

AS EXAMPLE of an expert assessment is a fact-by-clause of the candidacies, primarily based on the students' expert cards. As a democratic assessment, in terms of the students' votes for candidacies, would also be interesting.

The recently released (2010) Human Development Index and Multidimensional Poverty Index Philippines (under auspices of the UNDP) by six Filipino experts. They are useful for international reasons, but I think that tracking one's progress over time, rather than relative to others, matters much more.

For assessment of the automated elections, in last Tuesday's Jaime V. Ongpin-annual memorial, Christian S. Monsod gave an excellent lecture on "The 2010 Automated Elections: An Assessment."

While acknowledging the democratic assessment, or "wisdom of crowds," that the election was very believable to the public (an easy solution, "Reclaim for the automated election," July 21, 2010), the former Commission on Elections chairman also raised many serious criticisms that should be met in time for improvements in the next election.

He said that the election failed in terms of auditability because: (1) There is no documentary trail to verify if 76 computerizing factors recommended by the Technical Evaluation Committee were installed. (2) The Random Manual Audit (RMA) was extremely flawed. (3) The logs and data stored in the PCOS machines (or CF cards and counters) were not available. (4) No recounts have occurred—the Comelec has not yet even agreed on the new rules—even though the number of protests has increased (in the Comelec, 91 protests in 2010 versus 75 in 2007; in the House Electoral Tribunal, 43 protests in 2010 versus 49 in 2007).

(I agree with his criticisms of the RMA, since the most important of my recommendations to the Technical Working Group were not followed. Firstly, the manual counts were not done right after the voting, in front of the regular election watchers. Secondly, the data are not available to the public up to now. To accept the official RMA report, I need to study first the results of the individual manual counts and corresponding automated counts for the 1,046 clustered precincts audited.)

Mr. Monsod said: "In short, the Comelec was incredibly inept, but I must say that we were lucky that the cheaters will not be in touch until two total time and they will be more prepared, and the margins may be small enough to change."

He recommends that three of the commission are by non-lawyers, competent in management, systems, and behavioral science, that there be a step to appointments of retired justices to the Comelec; and that the management and the quasi-judicial functions of the Comelec be separated by putting capable commissioners in charge of each.

In conversation, JV expert Jose Lagman said that, unlike Mr. Monsod, he saw a good plan to manipulate the results. "I find the discovery of the CF card problem just one week before election day quite suspicious. A major, major problem like that should not happen so close to implementation. Could it be that the implementers removed the cheating programs from the cards because considering the results of the surveys, not doing so could result in a massive public outcry?"

By the way, this was the occasion when Comelec Commissioner Gregorio F. Larrazabal, newly arrived from abroad, spoke of what participants hoped: reports for the Philippines' having a "model" automated election system in 2010. The audience was amused.

An assessment of the role of law: Lee Hadreszky, I attended the book launching of "Rule of Law and Democracy: Issues," by Edmund G. Co, Deputies-at-to Mahdiani, Arthur Nicanor, Rita Luis Maniel, and Miguel Rafael U. Muang, co-published by Action for Economic Reforms and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

It is the fourth book by the Philippine Democracy Assessment Series, headed by Dean Alfan G. of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance, after "Free and Fair Elections" and the "Democratic Role of Political Parties" (2006), "Minimizing Corruption" (2007) and "Economic and Social Rights" (2007).

Aside from its expert assessments, the new book has a synthesis of 1993 surveys of the public, as well as of lawyers and of judges. One of them is the national survey conducted jointly by the Democracy Assistance Project on knowledge of the justice system, access to justice, equality of treatment of rich and poor in courts, and the independence of the Supreme Court.

The book is not for sale, but will be downloadable for free from www.idea.int. I don't expect may be requested from Dean Co (medean@gmail.com), while the work lasts.

• • •

The 2nd Betty Go-Belmonte Special Awards. Last Sunday, the Betty Go-Belmonte Award for Peace and Social Concern was given to PBSP vice president Ana Maria D. Guerrero. Three special awards are given to examples of the values and virtues of Betty Go-Belmonte, founding chairman of the Philippine Star, and charter president (1969-1972) of the UP Diploma Debt Phi chapter sorority.

Linda Lapuz-Lee is Dagina Delos Pks, 1973 (capacity 1993) to the International Board Survey Program, Asian Barometer, the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, the World Values Survey, and other international projects. I think no other Filipina can match her expertise in multi-cultural survey research.

Scientific, democratically based, cross-cross. It's surveys are an excellent basis for learning the many similarities, and the few differences, between ourselves and other peoples. They are opposites to the pontifications of certain pundits fond of disparaging Filipino characters.

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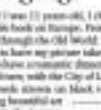
Longings



YOUNG BLOOD

Reginald Paul Enriquez

WHEN I was 11 years old, I chanced upon an old travel outlet (table book on Europe. From that moment on, I longed to travel through the Old World: to see the sun set on the Seine River, to have my picture taken at the historic Tower of London; to have a romantic dinner in the restaurant on top of the Eiffel Tower, with the City of Lights just before me, sparkling like jewels (even in black-white), to spend endless hours viewing beautiful art pieces in the Louvre, to listen to a gondolier sing of love as one leisurely rides out way through the canals of Venice on a gondola, while perusing of some of Italy's finest architecture and pasta.

Now that I am in my late 20s, those dreams are within my grasp. In fact, some have come true. I met consider the United Kingdom as my second home. France is just two hours away by train. The world is in my hands, and I have the kind of career that enables me to go to most many places. All the material things in life that I have joined for are there for the taking. My friends back home have seen pictures of me strolling broadly with the palaces of Britain in the background. I plan to visit Paris and Italy within the next few months. Childhood dreams—check.

I should be happy since everything seems to be going my way. But sadly, that is not the case. Happiness is a state to which I definitely do not find myself in. I am feeling more and more each day that loneliness is my constant companion. Even amidst England's most beautiful scenery I find myself longing for home. Where everybody else sees the white cliffs of Dover, in my eyes I see the chaotic but welcoming port of my hometown in the Philippines. Walking the city roads of London, I have seen the quiet lanes of the well-manicured engines of expensive cars and double-decker buses, but the raucous sounds of the jeepneys and the barking of the conductors to potential passengers.

Lately things have not really been going great for me. I have been living my life from day to day, doing the things expected of me like an automaton. I do like my job and the financial security it affords me. I have friends to go out and a wonderful family to look up to. But as mentioning on the four sounds is the loneliness standing my insides. Three years five months, I have been finding myself just drifting like a canoe in strong current without the proverbial paddle. In a boat torn from its fragile moorings and falling into a rampaging river that runs straight for anything other than running its pulsating course. I long for my family, my friends, my home.

These unfulfilled longings have wrapped leaden weights around my body. They explain why each morning it is a struggle to wake up, each step a personal hurdle to overcome, each lush reminiscent of a trip down Dante's hell. Life is becoming more like a dreaded chore, not a privilege to enjoy. I used to enjoy life, breathing it to explore only into my being, but now I wonder where I have gone astray. Loneliness, it seems, is the price I have to pay for that I have been so far away from all that is familiar to me.

Whatever I look back at my life, I find myself aching for the those sweet childhood moments that are forever etched in my memory. Like those endless days of playing in the rain, hoping that the raindrops never stop falling, because in my little hearts we believed that once the rain stops, the place is broken. Or those summer days when I spent hours lounging or doing nothing, or just sleeping into because it's tomorrow and not a school day and then smiling at the high noon sun with its promise of a beautiful day to get together with friends. All those petty quarrels about who touched the ball last or who ate most of the fruits stolen from the neighbor's backyard seem so far, so easy to me now. So as I visit each wonderful memory, its warmth envelops me and makes me even longer. At this very moment, I am comforted by the thought that I can still feel those feelings, even though they are wanting to come alive to me now.

I know that I am not alone in having such feelings. I guess I would have to attribute it to the fact that there will always be times when we feel like we are on the floor with eye caressing all over us. During such times, we fail to see that although we are here in this place, we are in good hands, a whole new mind and a totally different perspective open up to us. And it is how we see that new viewpoint and perspective to acknowledge that makes us winners.

I do not profess to be a winner—not yet anyway that being an occasional optimist, I sincerely believe that after the bad times, the good times will surely come rolling. And they will come, together with the smiling face of the sun.

Reginald Paul Enriquez, 27, works as a staff nurse at Heather and Thurrock Unive sity Hospital in Essex, United Kingdom.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

National Book Week: celebration or lamentation?

COMMENTARY

Nemi Sta. Romana Cruz

I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.—Jorge Luis Borges

BAY AREA, San Francisco—I can never forget the horrified reaction of a well-known writer of children's books from a developed country that I had invited for an author visit to the international school I was previously associated with. In the course of the visit, the author asked me if I casually mentioned that the school library, which received all her titles, had to be up to date of the art standards and complete with the latest releases from abroad especially in the absence of public libraries in the country. She made the report the first part of my statement and then asked, "How do you survive?"

Barely, I found myself confessing to her. I came to think of it, how do we survive? With that new consciousness, I began to grow resentful about having to buy, borrow or steal, but mostly buy, every book I wish to read.

That is why my favorite refuge during this extended visit to the Bay Area has been its public libraries. Not the shopping centers nor hospitals nearer—who needs them with a Constable's house and a 100 bagpiper market back home? It was logical that I would opt for what, in a rarity in Manila, is free: books. Not only that, the kinds of open shelves make every title available for easy browsing, where books and table tops are offered for every reading mood, where librarians smile, delight in their jobs, and take the extra step to answer every query.

In these buildings they proudly announce that all their programs are free for everyone, yet also that they have had to reduce their days and hours of operation because of budget cuts. But what mattered most were those books in nature-you.

The Burlingame Public Library on the San Francisco Peninsula is more than a hundred years old and is proud of its history. It had an interesting display of the pioneering librarian's record-keeping system and stationery supplies, over the yellowing architectural drawings of the imposing Italian-styled building, showing a respect for antiquity and functionality. It seemed to cast a strange but welcome spell under which generous concerns would and trembling on them the names of benefactors.

It has a busy calendar of activities—toddler storytelling time every Friday morning, a themed display on books which had been banned—with the usual suspects, "Curious to the Boy Who Lived" to "Kill a Mockingbird"—marking its 50th year in July (a parent had for censoring the reluctance, of course), even a reading to dogs program by children. The place is busy for both adults and children. The most striking thing is that all hours the library building or content and happy with their chosen lines of work.

And whether the grownups were just reading the papers, working on their notebooks, or doing serious research, they were all so engaged that when my mobile rang and I made the grievous mistake of answering it, what demeaning looks and eye-daggers I got.

I do feel deprived that no public library in the country has made a difference in my life, again assuming the fact that the world of books is not within everyone's reach. If we go by official statistics, there are thousands of public libraries—I honestly hope they are touching the lives of readers, as I only know of the more progressive ones in Quezon City and Davao City. And I would be so happy to be proven wrong in my thinking, in my information, in what I am gladly willing to concede as irresponsible and rash observations. Let them be deemed false and misleading, please.

I have noticed that there are libraries in Metro Manila which have become inexplicable overreach and learning—the Lopez Memorial Museum and Library in Pasig with the priceless Rizal memorabilia, the Rizal Library on the dense campus in Loyola, and the Filipiniana section of the National Library in Ermita, which has become a favorite of the sheer delight of it? Sadly in Manila, it has been the bookstores where one has to make a purchase.

My experiences with our other public libraries discuss the pathetic lack of books—not the discards from the homes of the wealthy to serve as tax write-offs, but the newly published, contemporary and multiple copies of the life and speeches of Filipino politicians—nothing that would stir minds and imagination, much less foster an interest in books. A great test is, would you take those books to bed with you?

It is a good time as any for public libraries to hold what they are doing at this time as we get again celebrate National Book Week in the third week of November. Mandated by President Manuel L. Quezon's Proclamation 109 in 1936, it is unmistakable that it is still far from a necessary or anticipated tradition.

Nemi Sta. Romana Cruz (nemicruz@gmail.com) is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People, the Foundation for Worldwide Kinds Journey, and a trustee of the Go Bilim Binhi/ Formula Inc.

Practical tips for the conduct of pre-trial

BUSINESS MATTERS

Ricardo J. Romulo

PHILIPPINE LEGAL materials are not lacking in recognizing the importance of pre-trial in the court's management of its case load. Early this year, the Supreme Court said, "Pre-trial is an answer on the dictum call for the speedy disposition of cases." (Globalia v. Land Bank, G.R. No. 157094, March 9, 2005). Similarly, in its prior issuances, such as, in A.M. No. 03-1-09-SC, the Court acknowledged that "the use of pre-trial and the deposition discovery measures are undeniably important and vital components of case management that is not to be."

"By no this day," the Supreme Court itself has recognized that "in place in the scheme of things is not fully appreciated, and it assumes but perfunctory treatment in many courts. Some courts consider it a mere technicality serving no useful purpose; now perhaps, occasionally to furnish counsel for clients and/or the plaintiff, or declaring a defendant in default, or wistfully to bring about a compromise. The pre-trial device is not thus put to full use. Hence, it has failed in the main to accomplish the chief objective for it: the simplification, abbreviation and expedition of the trial, if not the settlement of the case." (Id.) Thus, it is because the objective is attainable, and such not much difficulty, if the device were more fruitfully and extensively handled." (CIBF v. Court of appeals, 160 SCRA 600).

To promote the explanations of the benefits of pre-trial, the Supreme Court, among others, issued instructions, pre-trial guidelines in its Administrative Circular No. 3-99 on Jan. 15, 1999 and in A.M. No. 03-1-09-SC, to be observed by trial court judges and clerks of court in the conduct of pre-trial and use of deposition discovery measures. Unfortunately, these rules have yet to be prevalent. Judges who may wish to improve their performance in this regard would benefit and perhaps pick up a tip or two from reading the relevant provisions on case management in the handy booklet titled "Reflections on Civil Procedure (An Ala Carte Justice Bersamin," that was published by A.T. Reyes, judge of the High Court of Hong Kong last year.

Identifying the real issues in dispute between the parties is an early stage, says Judge Reyes, is important. "Without identifying such issues," he explains, "it would be impossible to resolve a dispute. The arguments of the parties, otherwise like, even during an proceedings unfold. As one time or another, some party or others will be making opposite/outside demands which, forever changing, can never be met. There will be much waste of time and cost, involving tactical maneuvering among the parties."

Proving down the causes should be conducted "with discrimination" and not content in simply having, in any particular order, hundreds of questions covering over the minor factual issues." Moreover, it should "not put out of hand." There may be some unexpected advantage of a longer list of issues "but," says Reyes, "one would be rapidly diminishing benefits in each exercise — Experience suggests that most cases boil down to no more than three or three main issues." The way that our Supreme Court is in more recent decisions minimizes the issues that divide the contending parties is proof that such objective is indeed attainable.

After identifying the main issues, the courts would do well to carefully map out "how each main issue is to be dealt with, either in the trial or during an appropriate stage. What is, in the course of trial preparation or at the trial itself." A common error, agreed to by the parties, on what law is to be applied, a listing of the facts that need to be proven on the basis of that view of the applicable law, and organized method of proving the facts, would add nonetheless immensely to speeding up the case.

The third significant task is to work out a practical timetable. Judge Reyes suggests a timetable, agreed to by the parties, that has two types of dates, subdivision dates and non-subdivision dates. Milestone subdivision dates are those markers of certain process, are recommended to be, for all intents and purposes, immutable and subject to extension only in very exceptional circumstances. The justice may agree for instance that all pleadings must be in and the incidents be submitted for resolution on a date certain—that is a milestone date. The time allotted for the submission of appropriate pleadings constitutes the non-milestone date. Obviously extension may be asked for non-milestone dates, provided such extensions do not impact on the milestone date, resulting in to adjustment of the latter.

There are, however, some caveats the judge ought to be conscious of. Judge Reyes cautions against two pitfalls. First, the tendency to drag on and on the proceeding itself that is entered into, to engender the dispute resolution (thus the dangers of delay). Second, and the most acute of the diseases, and second, the temptation for the judge to take part in the bargaining and negotiation that he or she becomes in effect a party, or at least speaking for or against a party, inviting a balance to awkwardly bought with difficulties. But, as Judge Reyes concludes, being a diligent and honest judge once is noble in the part.

Ricardo J. Romulo is a senior partner of Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles.

THEY SAID

Basic ideas

"I would not worry about why you haven't gotten there. I would worry about what kind of hate ideas that would be driven home to get you where you were on get/became you can do that. There's no doubt in my mind about that."

—Retired Associate Justice DEC Dicon commenting on the country's perennial during his oral "Embracing our common humanity" at the Manila Hotel

No surprises

"Don't be surprised if this fight ends in the first round."

—Chief Public Attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta's upcoming fight with Attorney Alberto Agra

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Citizen vigilance needed

LETTERS

AS A people we should not take the terrorist threats lightly. We should remember the Ilaw Wholl bombing, the Valentine's Day attack, the Superferry explosion and other subtler acts which have stained the history of many of our countrymen.

We should learn a big lesson from what have happened. Vigilance is not only important. And we should start being cautious and careful not only in the family, in the community and in the workplace, but especially when we are outside and mobile.

Let's not be apathetic. We should involve ourselves by cooperating with security personnel who may be delaying/disrupting our response to terror or intelligence reports and advisories.

Be vigilant. Be cautious. Be careful and alert. We should accomplish and instead to channel into the government is serious to take on the threat. Let's do our part.

—DONALD R. APELLIDO, sonicapellido@yahoo.com

MMDA clarifies 'non-payment' for use of Rodriguez landfill

Truth only relevance to an article titled "MMDA ordered to pay Rizal government for landfill use." (Inquirer, 11/6/10)

With due respect, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) wishes to clarify that it has not been remiss in its obligation to pay the provincial government of Rizal for the use of the 10-hectare landfill located in Rodriguez, Rizal.

On the contrary, it was the MMDA which filed the interpleader case so to solve the conflicting claims of the debtors, namely: the provincial government of Rizal and the municipal government of Rodriguez. We asked the court to rule on which local government has the right to receive payments from MMDA for the use of the landfill for the period September 2009 to January 2010 which was withheld by the MMDA as a result of the claims of the dispute.

Now that the case has been resolved by Judge Hipolito B. Cuila, we assured that the MMDA will settle its financial obligations without delay.

—ROSEMELLE T. MACAPILI, officer in charge, Office of the Secretary Manager, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Edsa, Makati City

Young age no excuse in field of grownups

THIS IS in connection with the letter with, "Amazon-inflated speculation over 'voter ratio' issue." (Inquirer, 11/3/10)

Sen. Kimpoy Pimentel was reported to have asked why we have to wait for Vietnam to celebrate presidential elections or Carmen Pelaez's serious indiscretions. The Filipinoness people, Honasan said have shown political maturity. We presume that the good senator said that after observing that the Filipinoness have not held a street about the Mustang bombshell. The Filipinoness need to be commended for their common sense, grace. And because they are politically mature their own administration is not functioning.

But we should not be blinded by representing our votes who has committed such a faux pas. We believe that the Filipinoness are concerned with our weakness to condemn one of us who has erred instead of condoning or making excuses for the offense.

The upcoming rally, as Senator Honasan called her, cannot hide behind the façade of her youth to come up with an excuse for her careless comments because she is surely aware that she is playing in the field of grownups, where behavior should start among the leaders of the nation, where children increasingly should never be kept to one's self and where the influences of language and body movements are tremendously observed.

—RAMON BAUTISTA, pramonjaun@aol.com

Elderly hails PNP chief's 'Bantay Turista'

PNP Chief Jesus Verzosa's "Bantay Turista" is a service-oriented project in step with President Aquino's primary program.

Identified tourist spots in all parts of the country will be assigned to assist foreign and local tourists of their outings. This move will surely bring in more tourists, organizers and investors.

—LIBERATO G. MENDOZA III, Municipal Federation of Tourism Children Inc., Pampanga and Guimaras Sur

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Church not against total ban on aerial spraying

THIS 1st reference to the news item "San embargo raid at sarnai to exempt firms from wage hikes." (Business, 10/28/10)

We strongly feel that there is a misleading fact report that "the Church recently endorsed a ban on aerial spraying." The statement is directly contrary to the declarations of the bishops of Ilocos, Davao City Tagum and their pastoral statements of March 1, 2009.

We are therefore at a loss which "Church" Quirico is referring to as the Catholic Church in the Davao region had concluded that "there are no sufficient facts to warrant a total ban on aerial spraying." The Catholic faithful in various Lumina farmlands who are daily witnesses to aerial spraying have also repeatedly narrated that it is the nature and toxic effects applied chemical practice in the country, and that not one of them was ever adversely affected by both the method and the low dose. Imidacloprid the past 44 years it has been in use in the region.

We would like to clarify further that the Philippine export banana industry is only starting the concentration in the implementation of the new wage hike for as long as the restriction on the importation of Philippine bananas by true is in effect.

All member-companies of the Filipino Banana Growers & Exporters Association Inc. (PBGEA) are currently paying the mandatory wage hike and the Philippine export banana industry now pays the highest carrying cost per employee in the years of the country.

We requested the intervention so that we can lessen help the small growers and landowners in the new operations. They are the ones that will be very badly hit if the ban martin does not stabilize within the next three months.

—STEPHEN L. ANTIG, executive director, Philippine Banana Growers & Exporters Association (PBGEA), 301 Med St., Davao City 8000

The exemption from the wage hike, whether temporary or not, was being sought by PBGEA using, among other things, the supposed benefits on importation of products from 25-allied countries. We just reported what PBGEA had asked from the ECOP. It was not meant to put PBGEA in a bad light.

—Inquirer Mindanao Bureau

'Siam,' 'Indochina' already exporting rice

PRESIDENT NOYNOY was right in saying that the Philippines could learn from countries on how to achieve 100-percent rice self-sufficiency and on how to end our dependence on imports.

There's a big relief because the Philippine government, for the last 20 years, has been giving the advice of so-called "rice experts" from multilateral financial institutions, like the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which imposes on Third World countries like the Philippines onerous loan conditions such as free trade liberalization. So instead of achieving 100-percent self-sufficiency in rice, we remain import-dependent and buried deep in foreign debts.

In light of the global restrictions on rice supply, it is time we adopted favorable Vietnamese-era policies. Let us also disabuse ourselves of the thinking that Vietnam and Thailand (and Indonesia) have easier technology from the Philippines. Way before other countries were installing exchange windows in the 1960s, so Los Baños for farmer agronomist study, both countries had been exporting rice. Thailand, when it was still known as Siam and Vietnam was still Indochina, and they are the real experts on domestic agriculture and rice production.

Historically both Vietnam and Thailand are good defenders against foreign invaders. To the Philippine government, both nations can be role models of how to become self-reliant and not to be misled into to misdirected financial investments with oppressive loan conditions such as the removal of farm subsidies and export-oriented crop production.

—ROBIN M. SANCHEZ, Los Baños, Laguna; rm_sanchez2010@yahoo.com

Eyewitness in bar blast gets threats

From page A1

The witness attacked Anthony Nepomuceno, a member of the San Alpha Phi Omega (APO), at a hazing arranged by the National Bureau of Investigation, according to the source.

"He said he was threatened by the APO members who were there after he attended Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II's chat with his children where he and his parents live. He informed me about this, and I just told him to be careful," said the source, who requested anonymity for the safety of the witness who had positively identified the primary suspect.

The source quoted the witness as saying that he had taken a good look at the man who threw a grenade at the crowd of revelers welcoming the bar examinees.

"This witness told me that he would never forget the face of that man," the source said.

This was what happened at the lineup, the source said, according to the witness' account.

The law student and the other witnesses were made to wear footwear before they were asked to identify the suspect. But Nepomuceno's battery of lawyers, all his APO brods, insisted that this footwear be removed as part of the right of the accused to confront the witnesses.

Nepomuceno and other men were made to stand in the lineup and the witnesses were told to walk past them twice.

"The witness said that he and Nepomuceno looked each other in the eye, and that Nepomuceno appeared to smirk, as if to tell him, 'Hindi mo ako kaya (You can't touch me).' Well, that was the impression that the witness had. So he panicked [the suspect] and they were forced apart," the source said.

'Not inventing things'

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said she would be as persistent in bringing the perpetrators of the crime to justice even if they belonged to another fab.

However, she said, the evidence established by the NBI pointed to APO members. "I cannot be inventing things," she said.

De Lima also said the fact had been told that authorities were looking for Nepomuceno, contrary to the claim of APO elder Ryder Ramos that the frat was not informed of the identity of the member being hunted.

Ramos had also said that De Lima and the NBI had not revealed the names of Nepomuceno's two alleged accomplices.

Told of Ramos' claim, De Lima said: "I don't want to be challenged to name the two in public. Do not what I am doing. I will not jeopardize the ongoing investigation. There's always a right time to announce that."

She added that the information she had on the two other APO members to turn themselves in in next week still held.

De Lima had earlier said that if the two men would not present themselves to authorities, the NBI would be forced to file charges against them.

She had said that an eyewitness pointed to Nepomuceno as the one who threw the grenade on Sept. 216, with another APO member purportedly among the wounded, and that the frat was also behind earlier grenade-throwing incidents at La Consolacion College and the University of Perpetual Help, both in Manila.

APO council Vice President Antonio Sinoy among its members.

No names

The Supreme Court committee that investigated the grenade attack did not name any suspected person or group in its report, contrary to Ramos' claim.

In separate phone interviews, the high court's spokesperson Ave Maha Mirapaz and lawyer Sosy Pe told the Inquirer that the report did not contain such information as alleged by Ramos on radio dzMM yesterday morning.

Pe, the president of the Philippine Association of Law Schools, was one of the 12 members of the committee convened by Chief Justice Renato Cuesta to look into the grenade attack in front of De La Salle University in Manila, the venue of the bar exams.

"We never pinpointed any suspects because that was not part of the mandate of the committee. We were not an investigating body. Our mandate was to find out how to prevent the same incident in the future," Pe told the Inquirer late yesterday afternoon.

The Supreme Court's Public Information Office earlier issued a statement saying the committee "did not name any suspect in the incident."

Pe's statement also contradicted that of Associate Justice Noel Tijam, chairman of the committee, who said in a statement that the committee had identified the suspects in the grenade attack.

Ramos said dzMM that he had seen a copy of the Supreme Court report, and that it had contained a list with his name. He refused to identify the list.

'Uncertain allegation'

But Mirapaz said the report did not mention APO or Lambda Eko Sigma as a suspect.

She added: "If [APO members] really feel that the Supreme Court's investigation report will be useful in their defense, then they can write the court and formally ask for a copy."

It said all the frats that occupied the area on Taft Avenue in Manila where the grenade exploded were mentioned in the report.

He said it was the NBI and the Manila police that pursued the interrogation of the suspects.

Not criminal aspect

He also said the committee did not touch on the criminal aspect of the incident because it was commissioned by pleadings of the bar.

"Later on, when the case has been prosecuted, whoever is found guilty could bring this up to the Supreme Court to appeal the verdict. If we mention any suspect, that would have prejudged the case," he said.

The committee released last week its recommendations for future bar exams, among which was to make the "bar appearance" of frats, sororities and other groups an "official school activity," and for law schools to regulate the traditional "salubong" or welcome for the bar examinees.

FILIPINO MARTIAL ART Soldiers take part in an "unlimited event" competition among members of the Armed Forces at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. AFP/TOR

CALL CENTER industry is booming, but ...

Not everything is sunlight bright in the country's sunshine industry

From page A1

more commonly known as the call center industry.

Filipino business process outsourcing (BPO) workers have become a major contributor to the economy, providing customer service and technical support on behalf of client companies. Revenues generated from the BPO sector surged to $6 billion in 2009 from $360 million in 2001.

Making up the second largest BPO industry in the world, Philippine call centers continue to attract young professionals regardless of educational background, lured by an average starting salary of P15,000, plus other incentives for good performance.

The International Labor Organization (ILO), in a study released in July this year, pegged the average monthly salary of BPO employees in the Philippines at P18,928, way above the prevailing minimum wage of less than P10,000.

"The pay is really high compared with other jobs but the turnover is very fast. One will really give up because of the lack of sleep," said Cielo Pablo Tejardo, 36, a former team manager of Human Global, a United States-based customer provider of customer care and BPO services.

Tejardo was earning P90,000 monthly until he was fired for his employer for having been absent for two days in succession, he said.

"I had a perfect attendance record in the company for 1.8 months. When you enter the call center, you are perfectly healthy but the lack of sleep will make you sick," Tejardo said.

"So on the 11th month, I got sick. I did call on the first day I was absent in succession then the next and able to do that on the second day," he said.

Tejardo was fired last May. He then filed a case against his employer for terminating him without cause.

High turnover rate

Not all is bright in that industry.

The Call Center Association of the Philippines pegs the turnover rate at 40 to 50 percent, the highest in the world. In some companies, it can go as high as 100 percent annually.

A full-time call center agent stays in a contact center for an average of 21 months. Part-time agents stay for an even shorter period, 10 months. The high turnover rate may be attributed primarily to health concerns.

The ILO said that 42.6 percent of Filipino call center agents suffer from sleep disorders, fatigue, eye strain, neck, shoulder and back pain and voice problems.

Risky sexual behavior

Night workers also tend to adopt dangerous habits like drinking, illegal drug use to stimulate themselves, and risky sexual activities after work, putting them prone to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

Such was the case of "Joseph Ryan" (not his real name), a call center worker who went on bisexual in March this year to share his HIV story.

But Dr. Ma of Shandee Salvosa of the University of the Philippines-Institute of Mental Health said there is no direct correlation between working at night and contracting HIV because workers from other industries are also exposed to risky sexual behavior.

Pia salon

The stress-related death of call center agent Gregoria Flores, who suffered heart problems while at work in 2007, underscored the need to provide decent working conditions in the industry, including the need for on-call doctors to attend to emergencies, and to develop support mechanisms to combat stress.

On the labor side, there is practically no workers' union in the BPO industry, Joanna Bess Rimando Monteza, secretary-general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, said.

While freedom of association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, living wages, and security of tenure are guaranteed by the Labor Code and the ILO conventions, trade unionism find it hard to organize industry players because most of them are first-time employees and young professionals who are hesitant to complain or are unaware of labor rights.

For some, their contracts simply prohibit them from forming a union.

Labor rights

A few call center workers, however, have started meeting with the TUCP on issues foundation for purposes of collective bargaining, Monteza said.

Justification of the DF School of Labor and Industrial Relations said most call center workers were actually interested in joining unions to have better negotiating positions.

He stressed that organizing efforts should be industry-based and not enterprise-based due to the high attrition rate.

A serious question persists: Does business outsourcing pose a clear and present danger to labor rights?

"It is already with us. But as long as it is done in accordance with the law and unless the law is changed—it is still the (same) Constitution and the Labor Code—then outsourcing should be recognized in the country," Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said, citing a global trend.

Bills in Congress

In 2008, the Department of Labor and Employment released a circular guiding BPO companies in forming occupational safety and health programs for their employees, including expressly building for back and safety concerns.

Several bills are pending in Congress which seek to protect BPO workers from underworking or overworking; provide them freedom from intimidation or coercion, protection from discrimination, and government safeguards to administration privileges.

It is ironic. Workers said, that workers in the BPO sunrise sector have no voice to improve their well-being.

"The BPO is the fastest growing industry in the Philippines, and right now everybody would like to work in the call centers. That is why the government should protect its workers and consider this phenomenon if we want to revise the Labor Code," he said.

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Julie Jim Benitez
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Ormoc rises from flash flood tragedy

The 'bayanihan' spirit prevailed during Ormoc's difficult times

By Cris Evert B. Lato
Ormoc City

ON NOV. 5, 1991, Teodulo Mangubia, then 16, took the longest swim of his life, which could have included him in the list of people who tested their limits in extreme challenges.

But it was not just a show of endurance and determination that Mangubia swam for eight hours through rough waters that engulfed Ormoc that Tuesday morning.

It was a battle against all odds, a struggle to save his life and those of six family members carried by the strong current spawned by Typhoon "Uring."

"I alternated from swimming to diving in trying to save my life and looking for my family members. Everything happened so fast," Mangubia said in Visayan.

A resident of Barangay District 20, he reached Barangay Linao 2 kilometers away, leaving the turbulent waters and seeing others people screaming and asking for help.

By 7 p.m., he reached the shore and immediately looked for his family members. He did not find any.

Three days later, he saw his grandmother, father and mother—all dead. His two sisters, aged 15 and 13 years, and 9-year-old brother were nowhere to be seen.

Nineteen years after the tragedy, Mangubia said he had moved on. He now sits in the city government's human resource management office.

He remembers hopeful that his three siblings are still alive. "We never found their bodies, but it's comforting to think they are still alive and may be living somewhere. During occasions, I can't help but be sad that they are not with us," he said.

Mangubia and thousands of Ormocnons on Nov. 5 were in the church, lighted candles and offered flowers at the mass grave site to commemorate the 19th year of the Ormoc flash flood tragedy. The city government recorded 4,032 deaths, 1,008 missing, 14,000 destroyed homes and more than P800 million worth of damaged property.

Aftermath

The "bayanihan" spirit prevailed during Ormoc's difficult times, according to Raoul Caro, city planning and development coordinator. Help from different government units and agencies, companies, cooperatives and people from all over the world poured in.

"Assistance came left and right—food, goodies, clothing," Caro said. For instance, he said, Cebu's Visayan Electric Co. supplied electricity.

One of the major challenges that the city government had faced was how to dispose of "too many" human bodies.

"We also had problems on who will claim the bodies because most of our drivers also have family members whom they could not find. They were victims themselves," Caro said.

Ormoc was a ghost town. Most of the bodies were found in the coastal barangays of Linao, Camp Downes, Barangay 20 and the pier. The putrid smell was unbearable at the pier near a fast-food and a hotel.

"Months after the tragedy, bodies were still being recovered here and there. When we cleaned our drainage systems, it's likely we could be found or that were because smelly again. It was a very tedious process of retrieving everything back to normal," Caro said.

The entire city was almost covered by mud, recalled Corazon Agravidez, 56, a resident. It was hard for people wearing shoes to walk around.

Agravidez lost everything, including her dry goods store and savings. She and her family escaped death by climbing to the rooftop.

"I am thankful that no one from my family suffered the loss of other families. I might have lost money, but that is fine. You can bring money back but lives, you can't," she said.

Flood mitigation

Illegal logging, kaingin (slash-and-burn farming), improper garbage disposal and other human activities were pinpointed as reasons for the flood.

Heavy rainfall caused damming in the upstream of the Anilao and Malbasag rivers, Caro said. There was not time for locals to clean since the rivers were constricted by garbage and human of illegal settlers, he said.

As a result, the water level rose and water broke to a turbulent flow downstream, flooding houses mainly in District 20, also known as Isla Verde for its lush vegetation during early times.

After the flood, national and local governments carried out rehabilitations, but these were limited to reconstruction of bridges and dikes. Major improvement works of Anilao and Malbasag rivers were "left almost untouched due to fund limitations," Caro said.

In 1995, upon the request of the Philippine government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) conducted a study on flood control for rivers in Ormoc and other selected urban centers.

Ormoc sought assistance from the Japanese government to implement its flood mitigation project. The goal was "not to repair the damage caused by the disastrous flood," Caro said.

In 1998, an P800-million grant was approved. Construction began that same year and was completed in 2003.

The Department of Public Works and Highways, Project Management Office for Major Flood Control projects, DPWH regional office and 4th Lyric Engineering Inspection Office, and the city government established a sustainable means for Ormoc to become less prone to floods.

Noting the flood mitigation structure is in place and has proven to be effective in evacuating their water flows directly to the sea.

On Feb. 10, 2001, flood caused by Typhoon "Gilas" was of the same magnitude as Uring, which caused the 1991 flash flood, "but the water were satisfactorily dispersed (in the sea)," Caro said.

City administrator Ernesto Capoyan said the city government was implementing a design of architect Marlboth Ekras for the 1,500-square-meter site, which offers a more appropriate atmosphere. The design forms a cross covering the area. A monument with a sculpture by national artist Florante Cinco will be at the center.

The sculpture, named "Gift of Life," is expressed in contemporary art. It is an abstraction of cross and hands, which represents the need to protect Mother Nature and represents a message of hope for the Generations, Ekras said.

"It will also serve as a reminder to the viewing public that those people were sacrificial lambs to save the lives of the future generation," she said.

The site is one of the heritage areas of Ormoc and will be included among the places to visit in the city's tourism package.

Assistant Editor: Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Isabela coastal towns running out of fuel, food after typhoon

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ILAGAN, Isabela—Food has become scarce for three Isabela coastal towns that were ravaged by Supertyphoon "Lawin" three weeks ago and then left isolated by floods brought by continuous rains.

Divilacan Mayor Narciso Bolan said non-food relief items communities could not be transported by air or sea to the coastal towns of Divilacan, Maconacon and Palanan due to bad weather.

Sporadic rains continue to hover the coast, although rains have stopped in the landlocked mainland.

"We were told that the planes can't have access temporarily restricted for weeks now. We cannot transport relief goods and the construction materials brought to repair government buildings because even the ship bound for the coastal towns have been stopped due to continuous rains, strong waves and winds brought in by the cold front," Bolan said.

Food spoiled

Perishable items meant for the three towns had spoiled due to the long storage period and major surpluses, he said.

The strong waves also uncovered a Navy ship in Bicobian Island in Divilacan that was delivering relief materials, Bolan said.

Captain Captain Rojelo called me to ask if we can send motorboats to fetch the relief goods and other essentials inside the ship since all our boats were destroyed by the last typhoon," he said.

"As a result, we are waiting for good weather so we can get those goods or as we can send ships to bring them in. We are praying now that the ship's engine will be repaired so that operations here can resume," he said.

The mayor's two motorboats, as well as about 50 other private vessels, were crippled by fears.

Construction stalled

The corrugated roof sheets of the Divilacan town hall were stripped off by winds and "had been left in that state after the typhoon because we could not bring the construction materials to the town," Bolan said.

Communication, however, is no longer a problem. The town center now to neighboring Maconacon has been restored after a couple of weeks, Bolan said.

Divilacan municipal workers have been housed in a vacant building that was spared by the typhoon, he said.

The scheduled flight of two Huey helicopters to deliver goods there had been called off because of storm clouds detected along the Sierra Madre mountains, which would make flights "risky and impossible," he said.

"Bad weather and heavy rains are things common to us here in the coastal towns. If the weather permits for some more days, we would be scrounging for all type of food," said Rosalinda Bernardo, Palanan education district supervisor.

Barrios areas

Located at the foothills of the northern Sierra Madre natural park, Divilacan has 4,602 residents while Maconacon is home to 3,193 people.

Palanan has 16,216 residents, based on the 2007 census. It takes a six-hour boat ride to reach Palanan from Bicobian, or by a six-hour bus ride from Cabagan-san City.

"Isabela villagers can recover from these disasters. It is only a matter of time," said Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy III.

SHIP BUILDERS
Workers at a shipyard in Balamban, Cebu, pose with their latest achievement—the world's largest ship—minutes before President Aquino came over to act as main guest at the ship's launch.

Days of discrimination numbered in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Discrimination by religion, color, age, race or sexual orientation should have no place here, this city's vice mayor said.

Rodrigo Duterte, former mayor, said he would never have approved an ordinance that would cut all forms of discrimination in the city in such places or schools.

"We have to raise the level and the quality of life of people," said Duterte.

"I have always been for the upholding of human dignity and this ordinance is basically for the protection and promotion of human dignity. The ordinance will end tomorrow."

He said earlier that the ordinance would protect individuals who are judged by "who they are," not by ethos they are capable of doing.

"This will also provide protection to gays who are often intimidated by a society that judges them according to their sexual preferences," said Duterte.

"There are employers who do not accept workers who are gays or who are lesbians or bisexual. They must be remedied by the anti-discrimination ordinance," he said.

The ordinance, he said, would end the unfair practice of some establishments that hire employees based on race, religion, age or sexual orientation rather than intelligence or a person's capability to be productive.

Edgar Cadanza, an attorney, Philippine author, said the ordinance must create an equilibrium that many companies list in their job postings—"pleasing personality."

"There has to be stiffer penalties for companies that refuse to accept someone who is gay or aged or a woman who is pregnant," he said.

"Often, upon returning to the country, first it really hard to look for jobs because we are either overqualified or too old to work," he said.

Duterte said he and members of the city council are carefully studying the contents of the ordinance.

The ordinance also seeks to stop the practice of some schools in refuse enrollment to students because of their religion or race. Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

Bishop: We'll see if PNP kills 'jueteng' in Laguna

SAN PABLO CITY—Police have promised to wipe out the illegal numbers racket "jueteng" in Laguna in three days, but anti-gambling crusader Bishop Oscar Cruz isn't taking the promise hook, line and sinker.

"A promise was just received from the PNP reserved that jueteng will be gone from the province in three days," said Cruz in a text message. "We will see."

Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Laguna police director, said police have arrested jueteng from Laguna and have arrested 106 illegal gambling collectors during a series of raids conducted in the last eleven months.

Senior Superintendent Cruz, however, didn't say if any financiers was arrested.

Cruz Arura, a businessman from Biñan City who tried for the franchise of the state-owned Small Town Lottery (STL) in Laguna, said jueteng operations in Laguna by low billowing an order from top PNP officials for police to clamp out jueteng and the one strike policy ordered by the PNP chief.

Sources in the gambling underground in the province, however, said jueteng continues with the blessings of top provincial officials.

A very high official of the province, said the source, ordered lobe money from jueteng operators, but only allowed one, a certain Tony Ubarola, to operate.

Antonio Arbolado Member Santa Cruz, in a testimony at the House of Representatives, identified several jueteng financiers in Laguna.

The source said these same personalities are still active in the illegal numbers racket in the province.

According to the source, the very high ranking provincial official, upon assumption to office, collected millions of pesos from jueteng financiers interested in operating in Laguna.

These financiers included a certain Boy Baco from Bangkusay and Loding Bangalisan.

Jueteng, according to ex-Pampanga governor and priest Eddie Panlilio in a testimony at the Senate, is just Small Town Lottery's clone. Marichu Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

In Baguio, anti-gambling voices drown out lottery

BAGUIO CITY—The city council sought the sentiments of Baguio residents about gambling on Wednesday the same day lotto outlets resumed long lines of hopefuls rushing to win the P175-million grand draw.

The session hall was packed, but most people who attended the public hearing on gambling turned out as he former employees of licensed and unlicensed gambling operations.

Some of them admitted they were there to find out how a likely ban against "jueteng" and the state-owned Small Town Lottery (STL) would affect their jobs or their livelihood.

The hearing was also attended by representatives of 12 competing nothing council approved to operate STL in the summer capital.

STL is being promoted by governments as the alternative to illegal numbers games like jueteng.

But the voices of anti-gambling advocates managed to drown out the STL proponents.

Bishop Carlito Cenzon of the Baguio-Benguet Ecumenical Group said Baguio residents consider all forms of gambling as sins.

"If we legalize jueteng through STL, [the] would be[just a cover-up for our inability to treat a disease which has infested our society like cancer," he said.

His sentiment was reinforced by a report that Baguio is again jueteng-free, two months after Mayor Mauricio Domogan was identified as a gambling coddler by retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

The mayor denied the charges during a congressional inquiry in October.

Senior Supt. David Lucban, city police director, testified at the hearing that "there is [no more jueteng]."

Belinda Pedagogio, who identified himself as a former jueteng bet collector, said that jueteng operations ended "just before the national elections in May."

In a result, about 300 bet collectors from the jueteng zone in the city are now without income, he said.

STL fronts now have their support, hoping that the lotto outlets may soon absorb their unemployed operators, he said.

"We like STL better because it's legal. We no longer have to run from the police," he said.

Teodoro Zoleguisto have supposed lotteries to operate STL for the committee learned that only a single operator would be licensed to cover the Baguio area.

Officials have to endorse one company before the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office can issue a franchise," said Ronald Daniel, PCSO chief lottery operations officer for the Cordillera and Ilocos region.

Tito Aguinaldo, who represent one of the 12 STL applicants, said the reason why the STL could generate profits for the city, but was unable to give a breakdown.

Pedagogio said a single lottery bet station in Baguio could earn P400,000 from bets collected for three daily draws.

Jueteng is not the only illegal gambling activity that has drawn the attention of the police, Lucban said.

Since January police have arrested 72 people who were engaged in unlicensed cockfighting, mahjong and card games, he said. Elmer Ki-Ichon

Reporting with reports from Inquirer by Dayan Bautista and Jessie Marie Lobo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

84 & SCORE Organized-crime czars over submersible, lawyers in Camp Crame in Quezon City, rate turns choosing what could be their lucky numbers for the biggest jackpot in the history of [illegible]

Serge O says Edong is CEO of Aurora ecozone

By Christian V. Esguerra

MDL RESIGNED Angara is under fire from a colleague for an alleged conflict of interest involving his work as a legislator and as the incorporator of a economic zone and freeport (Apeco) in his home province.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III criticized Angara for allegedly "lawyering" for Apeco during the Senate's deliberations on the budget of his fellow senator as Apeco's "chief executive officer."

"There is conflict of interest here," he said. "That cannot be. You cannot hold two positions in government."

Angara yesterday denied working as CEO, but said he had every reason to support Apeco because he was the principal author of the law that created it.

"Why wouldn't I lawyer for Apeco? There's nothing wrong with that. That's undeniable because you have to defend, protect, push and advocate for your own project," he told the reporters by phone.

Apeco's official website (www.aurorapacific-ecozone.ph) did not name Angara as among its officers. But his sister, Aurora Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, is its vice chairperson, and his son, Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara, a board member.

"The chief executive officer position is blank because it is Ed Angara who is the chief executive officer," Osmeña said, citing a "moral hazard" on the issue of uniting senate budget for Apeco through the General Appropriations Act.

"He is the one who appropriates money for the budget. He was the one who pushed the bill to become a law. His sister is the governor. His son is the congressman," he said.

Asked about the closed-mouthing fellow senator, he said, "I feel awkward about it, but unfortunately if no one will speak out, someone has to represent the interests of Aurora."

Angara declined to comment on Osmeña's attacks and instead insisted that Apeco "will be good for Aurora and the entire region."

"I have no pecuniary interest in it," he said. "It is a project I have a strong identification with because I was the author and principal sponsor of the law. It's a welcome interest and it's natural."

Angara also lambasted architect Felino Palafox, Apeco's former master planner, for alleging that the project had been reduced without the disadvantage of the government.

It's the budget hearing, Palafox said parts of the Apeco had been realigned away from the heart of Casiguran town, partly so the government would have to purchase the 12 hectare property of a local businessman offered.

Angara said Palafox was "fired" last year because his master plan ended up being rejected by the Philippine Ports Authority, Civil Aviation Authority, and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

"Architect Palafox is like that—he is a troublesome, dishonest, so-called master planner," he said yesterday.

OSMEÑA

SALAFOY

ANGARA

"The chief executive officer position is blank because it is Ed Angara who is the chief executive officer..."

10-ha mangrove forest flattened for Apeco site

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Employees of the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport (Apeco) have been blamed for the destruction of 10 hectares of mangroves, nipa palm and nilumbo (Dendrono nelumbo Blanco) along the coast of Casiguran town in northern Aurora.

At least 50 residents of Sitio Casanglayan in Barangay Dibut in Casiguran reported the incident in an appeal they sent to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office here.

"With impunity, our coast was cleared of trees by personnel and workers of Apeco," the residents claimed in Filipino in a petition signed on Oct. 31.

Ironader

Casiguran and Baler, Aurora's capital, host a free economic of Bandella landed, a rare species of mangroves in Southeast Asia, field research by Dr. Augustus Primavera confirmed in 1998.

According to the residents, a certain Brigilio Naga came to Casiguran on Oct. 14 and measured the coastal forest without informing the people [and] had cut straight their concrete."

The cutting, the Casiguran residents said, began on Oct. 15, although laws prohibited the destruction of mangrove forests.

No more protection

"We oppose this because our community has no protection anymore," they said. Mangroves work against storm surges and tsunamis.

The residents asked the DENR national office to order a stop to the destruction of mangroves and investigate the previous incidents.

Dibut and the Casiguran villages of Esteves, San Ildefonso, Cozo and Tadal are part of the 12,467-hectare Apeco, which is being praised as the third biggest economic zone and freeport in the country, after Clark in Pampanga and Subic and Bataan in Bataan and Zambales.

Conflict

An Apeco official did not reply when sought for comment. Alfred Collado, community environment and natural resource officer, was in Zamboanga for training and could not be reached to confirm the destruction.

The provincial environment and natural resource officer in Aurora, Benjamin Hilna, has been accused of owning large tracts of lands within Apeco. His phone was off on Friday. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Special polls today all set in Bulacan

CITY OF MALOLOS—The special elections for the first congressional district in Bulacan will be held today (Saturday, Nov. 13) and the already familiar precinct count optical scanners (PCOS) will again greet voters here.

But due to the expenses incurred in manual the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan polls, the Commission on Elections has directed the boards of election inspectors (BEIs) to deliver the results manually instead of transmitting them electronically as usual.

Julito Mojarro, provincial election supervisor, said members of the BEIs will secure the PCOS data cards from the precincts in their respective municipal boards of canvassers (MBOC), accompanied by policemen and soldiers.

The MBOC will again be reconstituted manually in the provincial board of canvassers before a recount is proclaimed.

Mojarro said the poll body does not see any threat to the integrity of the first district polls. All 632 PCOS units have been delivered and sealed after testing on Wednesday. Carmela Reyes-Buturpe, Inquirer Central Luzon

E-mail: [illegible]
Website: [illegible]

NEWS

Nokia Xseed: [illegible]

EU provides P4.1-B development aid for PH

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE EUROPEAN union (EU) will provide the Philippines a total of 68 million euros (about P4.1 billion) in development assistance during the next three years to help the country meet its Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs.

The grant brought to 1.2 billion euros (about P70 billion) the total EU development aid to the country during the past 30 years.

EU Ambassador Alistair Macdonald and Cayetano Paderanga Jr., director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), signed on Thursday afternoon the memorandum of agreement (MOA) covering the grant.

In a statement, the EU office in Makati City said "the primary focus (of the EU aid for 2011-2013) will be support to the delivery of basic social services, concentrating on the health sector with a grant of 35 million euros (about P2.1 billion)."

The funds will also go to the following: governance, including access to justice by the poor and the fight against extra-judicial killings, 17 million euros (about P1 billion); Mindanao peace process and climate change projects, 12 million euros (about P720 million); and trade-related technical assistance, 5 million euros (about P300 million).

Aside from the grants, the EU also committed to provide an additional 5 million euros in aid to programs "addressing areas as local governance, human rights, environment and sustainable development," as well as another 8 million euros for "humanitarian operations."

For the period 2009-2011, the EU has allocated 30 million euros a year in supplementary assistance aimed at "overcoming food security following the food crisis of 2008 to 2009."

During the MOA signing ceremony at the Neda headquarters in Pasig City, Paderanga called the agreement an "integral part of the (Philippines') progress towards achieving its development goals under the Aquino administration."

Paderanga noted that "the focus of the assistance are in the areas of social services, in particular, health and governance, has strategic significance, especially as the Philippine government moves forward in its objectives of inclusive growth, job creation and poverty reduction."

For his part, Macdonald said the giant "reaffirms (EU's commitment to help the Philippines in its fight against poverty and efforts to achieve the MDGs."

The new EU aid, Macdonald added, "represents a 50 percent increase in the annual allocation compared to the 2007-2010 programming period, 23 million euros versus 15 million euros per year."

He noted that "upgrading the quality of basic health services accounts for some 50 percent of the total funding."

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Aplus METRO
Editor Alejandro S. Ulanday

DAILY TALLY: 2-4

Car theft cases on the rise in Metro

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO to four vehicles are stolen in Metro Manila daily, and these vehicles are used to commit more serious crimes like kidnapping and robbery.

"For the last three quarters of this year, the daily record on car theft activities in the National Capital Region (NCR) shows a daily average of two to four incidents recorded in the streets of the Metro," Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, NCRPO director said yesterday.

The Motorized Anti-Street Crimes Operatives, or Metro, has been reactivated to enhance police presence and visibility in crime-prone areas because of the upsurge, and in anticipation of the holiday season when many crime activities are recorded, he added.

"But NCRPO chief said the stolen vehicles and motorcycles are used" mostly to perpetrate heinous crimes like kidnapping, robberies, murder and other related activities."

Most, he added, was these cases ended with the shooting of the drivers or owners of the stolen vehicles.

"The public is clamoring for a speedy counter-action and an effective no-nonsense campaign against these criminals, and I am in one response," Bartolome said.

Crime-prone areas

Bartolome has directed all the four district directors of Metro Manila to focus on identified crime-prone areas like churches, malls, market places and entertainment areas.

Also being closely watched are areas surrounding schools, banks, parking lots and other places where people usually converge.

In Quezon City, Chief Supt. Benjamin Marmelo said Metro operatives will be deployed to conduct aggressive police visibility patrols, especially in major thoroughfares.

Last week, an elderly couple and their daughter were victims of the "hratdol-hratdol" gang, car robbers who target those coming from the airport.

Apart from their sports utility vehicle, the victims also lost close to P 1 million worth of cash and valuables to the gang.

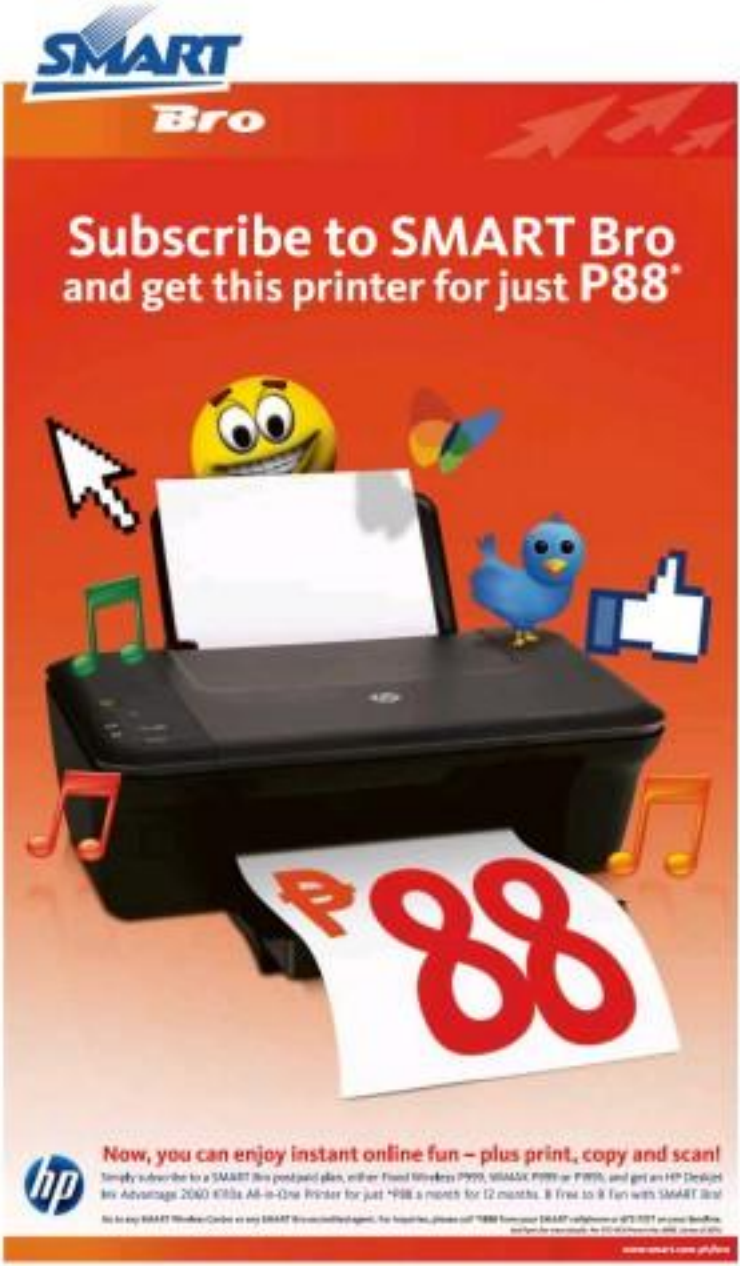
Number-coding scheme for buses takes effect Nov. 15

By Tina G. Santos

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will start implementing the number-coding scheme on public-utility buses (PUBs) on Monday.

"We will be issuing traffic violation tickets to offenders starting Monday. We have informed the bus operators about the mechanism of the scheme beforehand and they all agreed, so there will be no excuses. Nobody will be spared," said MMDA

NUMBER-CODING, A24



Status quo at SLEx despite delay in toll hike

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BOARD of directors of MTD Capital Bhd., one of the biggest toll operators in Malaysia and partner firm of South Luzon Tollways Corp., has approved the suspension of all planned cost-cutting measures at the South Luzon Expressway, which would have resulted in a reduction in the number of operating gates on the toll road.

In a text message, MTC spokesperson Atty. Tanseo said the company would just look for other funding sources to cover its operating and personnel expenses pending for the approval of its proposed toll hike.

She said SLTC chair Ines Azmil Shafal had recognized the importance of keeping the status quo on SLEx operations.

"Mr. Shafal recognized that people were anxious that the SLEx might go back to its pre-rehabilitation days when there were no lights and no toll gates. While the scheduled cost reduction would not affect motorists' safety, [SLTC] thought initially could be in such a position," she relayed.

SLTC earlier submitted a proposal to the Toll Regulatory Board to implement various cost-cutting measures to help bring down its day-to-day costs, including a reduction in the number of operational toll gates, a dash in manpower hours and a limit on the circumstances and upkeep of the non-critical aspects of the toll road.

In an earlier interview, SLTC president Isaac David said current toll collection only covered around a third of the toll operator's daily financial requirements.

He said the current basic toll in the SLEx—P1 (entrance per kilometer)—was only around half of the rate charged by government toll roads and less than a quarter of the rate of private sector-operated toll roads.

Power bills alone, he said, amounted to P96 million to P8 million a month, and SLTC had almost no way to cover an expense as basic as electricity.

Khalil said in a separate interview that the company's proposed cost-cutting initiative was "just an exercise in prudence," with the overall impact expected to be minimal.

Such measures, had they been implemented, would be stopped upon the lifting of the (temporary) restraining order on the toll hike.

The TRB granted SLTC a toll rate of P0.68 per kilometer for Class 1 vehicles, which was supposed to be implemented in June. However, the rate did not move, the latest was caused by a Supreme Court ruling that TRO on consolidated cases filed by a number of petitioners, including Mayor Geo Jose Salcedo.

While the TRO had already been lifted, the TRB, to which the case was remanded, has yet to settle the issue.

David said the delays in the implementation of the toll hike had cost SLTC at least P6-million in losses each day. Foregone revenue alone came up to between P480 million and P1 billion.

In a statement, SLTC said MTD Capital Bhd. has already endorsed the suspension of the cost-cutting measures, which includes the turning off of street lights and reduction of toll booths.

"To demonstrate good corporate citizenship, we're sourcing funds to keep the current level of service," Tanseo said.

SLTC is also supposed to start charging the extra rates this August, but this was stopped by a restraining order by the Supreme Court.

The expressway stretches 38 kilometers from Del Monte Avenue in Metro Manila to Calamba, Laguna province. It is also connected to the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road, which ends in Santo Tomas, Batangas province.

With a report from Paolo G. Montaville

Star-struck VP Binay

CLUTCHING Commissioner Lito Alvarez should not focus his anti-smuggling campaign on the ports of Manila.

My sources inside the customs bureau say smuggled food finds goods in other ports since things have become too "hot" for them in Manila.

Smuggling is rampant in the ports of Cebu, Iloilo, Batangas, Aklan in Caticlan Tabaco, Zamboanga, Davao and Cagayan de Oro, according to my sources.

Alvarez has been quite effective in intensifying smuggling at the South Harbor and the Manila International Container Port.

That's why smugglers are intending their cargoes to ports outside Manila where customs personnel are either too lax or too conniving with them.

The image of the country's judiciary will be tarnished further if the culprits in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre are not convicted, according to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

The justice secretary has been tarnished enough as it is, with the Supreme Court finding one of its members accused of plagiarizing a decision.

I don't think De Lima's fears, although valid, will ever come true.

The Ampatuan City judge handling the Maguindanao massacre trial knows only too well the consequences of a mistrial.

The public angrily reacted to the postponement of the arraignment of Andal Ampatuan Jr., the principal suspect.

And that was only the arraignment postponement. Imagine the mess there if justice is not served!

The people's wrath can be very scary.

There will be a conviction in the Maguindanao massacre trial, that's for sure.

The public is eagerly awaiting the conclusion of the trial—and how!

If new dues would be a reversal of the Maguindanao massacre conviction, it might be in the Court of Appeals where, it has been alleged, many justices can be bought.

Remember, the Ampatuans are Abby (10).

If was Vice President Jejomar Binay's fault that he allowed himself to be disarmed away by security aides of former US President Bill Clinton on the Manila Hotel lobby.

He should have stood his ground and told Clinton's aides that the rear door Vice President Binay told of Clinton's security detail in 1996 during the Apec Summit held in Manila.

When a Clinton aide told Binay not to tell Clinton too closely, Binay blurted out: "I'm the Vice President of this country. Nobody tells me what to do in my country."

Perhaps Binay was so star-struck with Clinton he had temporary amnesia—to forget he was the country's vice president.

Number-coding . . .

From page A11

Chief Francis Tolentino.

The agency will deploy around 1,400 traffic enforcers to ensure the full implementation of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) scheme on PUBs.

Around 15,000 provincial and city buses are expected to be covered by the scheme. More than 1,000 of these vehicles will be affected by the scheme daily.

The number-coding scheme for buses will be enforced from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. For stable private vehicles and other PUBs, there will be an window hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for PUBs.

Tolentino earlier proposed the exemption of the scheme to PUBs in part of the agency's effort to decongest Edsa and other major thoroughfares.

After a series of consultative meetings, bus companies and operators agreed to comply with the traffic scheme, which was then approved by the Metro Manila Council (MMC), the MMDA's governing body.

Public buses covered by the UVVRP until 2014 refers then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered their exemption upon the urging of bus operators.

Tolentino on Friday ordered the cancellation of days off of all agency traffic personnel to guarantee the enforcement of the program.

He added that cops have also been recalled along the major thoroughfares and the South and North Luzon Expressways (SLEx and NLEx) to advise the public about the coming interview of the scheme.

"Traffic enforcers will be deputized emergency as will be used NLEx cops to appointed personnel buses entering Metro Manila in violation of the number coding scheme," the MMDA official said.

"If they try to resist, we will detain the drivers and conductors and their buses for us to do it," Tolentino said.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Makati, Pasay residents want electric poles down

By Tina G. Santos

(TFSK) health and safety hazards, several residents of the cities of Makati and Pasay asked the Court of Appeals on Thursday to order the dismantling of electricity transmission poles and high-tension wires near their homes.

In their petition for writ of kalikasan, residents of Barangay 183 in Villamor, Pasay City, and Magallanes Village in Makati City are seeking the issuance of a temporary environmental protection order (TEPO) that will stop respondents Manila Electric Company (Meralco) from further constructing electricity posts and transmission lines in their areas.

Writ of Kalikasan

The TEPO is among the remedies provided by the landmark writ of kalikasan, which was promulgated by the Supreme Court early in April 2010. The special order is supposed to last for 72 hours itself to ensure thorough out the country.

Apart from Meralco, also named respondents in the petition were the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) and barangay officials in Pasay who allegedly gave the assurance to put up transmission poles carrying a high voltage of electricity near their residences without considering the residents' and children's health.

"It's a clear violation of our constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology," said the petitioners, through Ifrah Imarpe, Harry Roque Jr.

According to Roque, the 115 kilovolts of electricity, which will be transmitted by the power lines, will be used to power the Miaa's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) 3, which is being operated by MIAA.

High voltage

However, he said the actual voltage may turn out to be higher because of the 50 megawatts or 20,000 kilovolt requirement needed for the full operation of the Naia 3.

Roque added the local government officials failed to comply with the legal requirements in the construction and installation of these transformers.

"Under Article II, Section 15 and 16 of the Constitution, they have a duty to protect and promote the right of the people to good health and balanced ecology" said Roque. Failure to conduct prior public consultation is a violation of the Local Government Code, he said.

The petitioners also cited scientific and research studies showing the risks involved in prolonged exposure to electromagnetic field or radiation, saying it could cause cancer, leukemia, Alzheimer's disease, depression, miscarriages and memory loss, among others.

They added that some electric posts for the transmission lines are only one meter away from houses, even under the required distance for the electromagnetic field level to be within safe limits is around 87 meters away.

Consequences

"There are two rows of Meralco posts holding the high-tension wires and there were installed within a close distance from each other, forcing residential houses, which will unfortunately absorb the concentrated electromagnetic fields emitted by the transmission lines from both sides," Roque said.

Petron assures public of continuous fuel supply amid fear of shortage

By Amy R. Remo

PETRON Corp., the country's largest oil refiner and retailer, has offered to help stabilize the fuel supply situation in Metro Manila, amid fears of a shortage that may be caused by the continued closure of the pipeline owned by First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC).

"We have been keeping our facilities in Metro Manila and other supply points in nearby provinces on round-the-clock operations to keep our inventories supplied with fuel. We wish to assure the public that we have a sufficient inventory and production capacity to address any shortfall and are ready to do more to ensure a continuous and reliable supply of fuels," said Petron president Ferdinand Recto.

Petron said it made the assurance to prevent "unscrupulous traders" from taking advantage of the situation.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. earlier issued a warning that the prolonged closure of the pipeline was unsustainable as it could put at risk fifteen Manila's fuel supply.

FPIC's 117-kilometer pipeline is the largest commercial oil pipeline in the country, transporting crude and refined petroleum products from Batangas province to the Pandacan oil depots in Manila. Pandacan, in turn, supplies fuel to 459 gas stations in Metro Manila and an additional 1,800 in Regions I to 4.

Energy lifeline

The particular pipeline is also Metro Manila's energy lifeline, supplying critical industries like transport, construction, food manufacturing, rice and sugar mills, mining and power generation, among others.

FPIC's pipeline remains shut even as repairs have already been completed. Five grade-sized holes were earlier found in a portion of the pipeline on Bonifacio Street, just a few meters away from the building and at the foot of the Magallanes flyover. These holes had been the source of the oil that had been seeping into the basement of West Tower condominium in Barangay Guadalupe, Makati City since July 12.

Both Shell and Chevron have been largely affected by the closure since the two companies use the FP-pipeline.

Petron, however, was not affected by the closure since it uses tanks and barges to supply the metropolis. Even so, it has taken a number of preemptive measures to ensure continued availability of petroleum products to consumers.

Recently, it was ready to extend all possible assistance to Shell and Chevron to help them manage their fuel supply the country's biggest oil firm added.

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DANGEROUS CROSSING
Overloaded tricycle students, a ways for him attempts to cross a busy street in Manila. (JOAN BONDOC)

METROBRIEFS

Free viewing of Pacquiao fight in Marikina

RESIDENTS of the chess capital will get a chance to watch the bout between Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao and Mexican Antonio Margarito at the Marikina City Hall for free tomorrow. The main event, as well as the preceding undercard fights, shall be beamed live on two LCD trucks at the Marikina Freedom Park in front of the City Hall, said Mayor Del de Guzman. As many as 3,000 people can be accommodated in Freedom Park, which will be open to the public an hour earlier than the start of the fights at 8 a.m. "Gising na ang chicken the luxury to watch the boxing match live and for free is our simple way of honoring our pound-for-pound king," De Guzman said in a statement. "Manny Pacquiao's last fight with Joshua Clottey was proven to attract large numbers of viewers from the city residents and non-city residents as well," he added. The Pacquiao-Margarito fight will be held at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas. —EU Yap

17 cops in Paranaque shoot-out plead not guilty

MORE THAN seven years after the death of two motorists—including a seven-year-old girl—apparently mistaken for robbery suspects being hunted down, 17 policemen from the Philippine National Police (PNP) pleaded not guilty in two counts of murder stemming from the bloody 2003 Parañaque City shootout. Members of the PNP Special Action Force (SAF) entered their pleas before Judge Jaime Santos of Parañaque Regional Trial Court Branch 260 this morning. They were Supt. Jonathan Galicto, Chief Insp. Hermogenes Ebdane, Senior Insp. Abraham Bayuat, Inspectors Edison Roxanas and Ludovico Dandasan Jr., Police Officers 3 Hagar Torres, Jerome Ocubay, Gulbert Lopez, Saks Bose, Eugene Papot, Ex. and Policarpio Jose Jr., and Police Officers 1 James Yodong, Allan Ayat, Elmo Angcuan, Lloyd Balayagan, Nemesio Sano and Shennie Machacking. "I'm glad they have been arraigned. Finally, we heard the judge has begun," said Lilibeth de Vera, who lost her husband Alfonso and daughter Lia Alana in the shootout. "We hope and pray they will not be given special treatment." Alfonso and his daughter were onboard their Isuzu Crosswind on Dec. 5, 2003, when police allegedly mistook the vehicle for the suspects the accused were pursuing in United Parañaque Subdivision II. —Aika Rodriguez

Ikenobo-Ikebana exhibit set Nov. 20-21

MEMBERS of the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Manila are inviting the public to their exhibit with the theme "Life is Beautiful" on Nov. 20-21 at the Mitt Plant Arts Seminar Room, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Marilyn Lucero-Lunas, president of the Philippines-Japan Friendship Ladies' Association, will formally open the exhibit. There will be lecture demonstrations on the Ikenobo style at 3 p.m. to be conducted by Linda Limpo, secretary of the society. Out president Joyce Kato and past president and patron Prof. Gregorio E. Ubalde.

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URVAN

Obama economic view rejected on world stage

SEOUL, South Korea—President Barack Obama's hopes of ensuring free trade to help with the twin victories of a free trade agreement with South Korea and a unified approach to spurring global economic growth ran into resistance on all fronts on Thursday, putting Obama at odds with his key allies and largest trading partners.

The most concrete ripple expected to emerge from the trip eluded his grasp: a long-delayed free trade agreement with South Korea, first negotiated by the Bush administration and then renegotiated by Obama, to have greater prominence for US workers.

And as officials frantically tried to paper over differences among the Group of 20 members with a vaguely worded communique to be issued on Friday there was no way to avoid discussion of the fundamental differences of economic strategy. After five largely harmonious meetings in the past two years to deal with the most severe downturn since the Depression, major disputes broke out between Washington and China, Britain, Germany and Brazil.

Each rejected some element of Obama's strategy of stimulating growth before focusing on deficit reduction. Several major nations continued to accuse the Federal Reserve of deliberately devaluing the dollar last week in an effort to put the costs of America's competitive troubles on trading partners, rather than taking politically tough measures to rein in spending at home.

The result was that Obama repeatedly found himself on the defensive. He and the South Korean president, Lee Myung-bak, had vowed to complete the trade pact by the time they met here, while Obama himself then a week ago resolved "in a matter of weeks," without the pressure of a summit meeting it was unclear how the Ancelles an annual 8 barrels to US car and beef would be resolved.

Obama's meeting with China's president, Hu Jintao, appeared to do little to break down Chinese resistance to accepting new numbers for numerical targets for China's trade surplus. While Lael Brainard, the undersecretary of the Treasury for international affairs, said that the United States and China "have gotten to a good place" on rebalancing their trade, Chinese officials have avidly resisted the basic argument by the Americans that the dollar, the main global reserve currency, they should consider the interests of the "global economy" as well as their own "national circumstances."

The disputes were not limited to American foreign partners. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner got into a tense Pacific exchange with one of his former colleagues, Alan Greenspan, the former chair of the Federal Reserve, after Greenspan wrote that the United States was "pursuing a policy of currency weakening." Geithner shot back on CNBC that while he had "enormous respect" for Greenspan, "that's not an accurate description of either the Fed's policies or our policies." He added, "We still never seek to weaken our currency as a tool to gain competitive advantage or grow the economy."

Much of the rest of the world seemed to share Greenspan's assessment. Moreover, Obama appeared to be losing the broader debate over economic policy. The president has insisted that at a moment of weak private demand, the best way to spur economic growth is to have the government prime the pump with cheap credit and government stimulus programs. He quickly found himself in an argument with UK Prime Minister David Cameron, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, AFP

Travelers disembark 'nightmare' cruise

THE ROYAL Caribbean Allure of the Seas makes its turn from the channel into her new home, Port Everglades in Ft. Lauderdale, on Nov. 11. Allure and its twin megaship Oasis of the Seas are the largest cruise ships in the world. AP

SAN DIEGO—A disabled cruise liner arrived in San Diego on Thursday after three nightmarish days adrift on the Pacific, sparking cheers from passengers who disembarked and described limited food, backed-up toilets and dark cabins.

The 4,500 passengers and crew members trickled off slowly throughout the day, the process slowed by disabled elevators, and of under since the engine room fire on Monday that left the ship adrift off Mexico.

Pulled by six tugboats and escorted by Coast Guard cutters, the nearly 1,000-foot Carnival Splendor reached the dock about 8:30 a.m. PST (unable to steer or propel itself).

People on the docks and about 300 cruise ship workers rushed to the ship reached the dock, exhibit all along the harbor, tourists, joggers and fishermen stopped to snap photos.

The ship left Long Beach on Sunday for a seven-day trip to the Mexican Riviera, only to return days early without ever reaching the harbors tantalizers had hoped for. A fire in the engine room knocked out power. Monday morning, leaving the passengers with no air conditioning, no hot food, no hot water, no stereo. The swimming pool was off-limits because there was no way to pump chlorine.

Seventy-five buses were arriving to drive passengers north to Long Beach, where the ship is due to berth.

Aboard the ship, fans ice cold food stretched for hours during the days after the engine went out. Navy helicopter flew in lipsticks, Pop Tarts and canned crab meat and other goods for the passengers and crew, passengers said.

Some passengers carried food to others who need walkers and canes and couldn't climb up nine decks of stairs to reach the food lines, Allen said.

Passengers said their bed night drinking free wine and beer at the bar and singing old songs. AP

Russian spook helped the US thwart spy ring

MOSCOW—A Russian newspaper reported on Thursday that a senior official in Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service had provided the information that enabled the United States to break up a ring of Russian sleeper spies in June.

The nameless official, identified only as Colonel Shcherbakov, was said to have defected to the United States just before the arrests and was now being smuggled by a Russian assassination squad, according to the newspaper, Kommersant, considered one of Russia's more reliable dailies.

According to the article, Shcherbakov led the branch of the Foreign Intelligence Service that oversees longtime agents working without diplomatic cover in the United States, including those who were detained in June.

A spokesperson for the CIA, Paula Weiss, said the agency had no comment on the Kommersant report. But a senior Russian lawmaker with close ties to the security services, Gennadi V. Gudkov, confirmed the thrust of the Kommersant article.

"I had known this for any former colleagues long before today's article in Kommersant," Gudkov said in an interview with the Interfax news agency.

Dismal failure

"We can all reasonably say that Directorate S, where the division was led by Shcherbakov, has never known such a failure," he said. "This directorate is the body of bodies in the intelligence business, and it works on producing deep-cover agents, whose training and legalization sometimes takes decades."

The Foreign Intelligence Service declined to comment on the Kommersant article.

But the betrayal would amount to a significant intelligence coup for the United States and an embarrassment for the Russian Intelligence Service, which is led by Mikhail Fradkov, a former prime minister whose Vladimir V. Putin was president.

The article suggested that Russian officials had repeatedly failed to pick up no clues that Shcherbakov was working for the United States. It said his son had resigned from a job with the Russian drug control agency and moved to the United States just before the spy ring was uncovered.

The colonel was also said to have a daughter who is a longtime US resident.

Some of the details in the Kommersant article may strike intelligence experts as implausible. For example, the newspaper said that 10 interrogations were so harsh with the spy suspects known as Anna Chapman and Mikhail Semenko—"I don't know how all his ribs and his leg, but neither Lazarev's 128 lawyers nor his wife, who was also arrested, expected that he had suffered such injuries while in custody.

Make it snide

The newspaper reported that the spies were arrested after the Russians indicated officials feared that the Russians would realize that they had a collaborator in their midst.

The 10 spies included many who had been secretly working for years in the United States. They were returned to Russia in July in a swap that sent four Russians to the West.

After their arrest, Putin, once prime minister, mocked the "miserable" that had to their discovery. Some of the Russians always cover had media." Putin, a former official in the KGB, said he sang patriotic songs with the agents when he visited them after their arrival in Moscow.

Last month, President Dmitry A. Medvedev awarded the spies government honors in a private ceremony.

Kommersant said Russian agents were actively seeking Shcherbakov.

"He knew who he is and where he is," a Kremlin official was quoted as saying. "Do not doubt that a Mercedes has already been sent to get him."

That was a reference to Hannes Morgulis, the Russian agent who was killed by a Mercedes assassination Leon Trotsky in Mexico in 1940.

"You would not envy the fate of such a person," the Kremlin official said, indicating that such defections ignore the area of their lives to fear of assassins.

New York Times News Service

Largest cruise ship makes US debut

MIAMI—Allure of the Seas, the world's largest cruise ship along with its twin Oasis of the Seas, made its US debut on Thursday with appear Royal Caribbean showing off its enormous interior including the first Starbucks coffee house at sea.

Like its 1,1-metre-tall twin Oasis, Allure soars 65 metres above the waterline, stretches 360 metres from bow to stern and fully loaded weighs 225,282 tons.

It was built by South Korea's STX Finland Cruise ships in Finland at a cost of $1 billion. The Allure made its US debut after a 11-day transatlantic journey from Turku, Finland, to Florida.

"We are very proud of these two ships that are the largest [cruise ships] in the world. They are using cutting exactly the same size and design," Royal Caribbean marketing director Rebecca Rutherford AFP

The Allure's 16 decks are divided into seven "neighborhoods," including a sprawling green area with fully grown trees reproducing New York's Central Park, a Coney Island area for Boardwalk and numerous amenities offering rock walls, ice skating rinks and swimming pools with surf simulators.

At 26 dining options include the first Starbucks at sea, the company said.

"It's like being in seven different ships at once, and it's so big you at times forget you're at sea," said Barlia.

Despite the global recession downturn, Royal Caribbean decided to build the twin giant cruise ships and looks ravenin it can get the customers to fill them.

"We're optimistic because vehicle are know we're going through some hard times, we offer luxury cruises at relatively affordable prices, because everything is included," Barlia said.

The cheapest cruise package Allure has to offer is a week-long voyage for $800 per person, although a family of four would pay about 25 percent less per individual.

The most expensive package includes the Royal Loft Suite for up to six people, at $13,600 per person per week.

Allure of the Seas' inaugural seven-night Western Caribbean itinerary will depart on Dec. 5.

The Allure arrived at its home port of Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, 48 km north of Miami, where it was welcomed by a flotilla of ships.

Miami's complimentary port facility, Port Lauderdale, houses the largest cruise ship port in the world that is 2000 welcomed some four million customers. AFP

Novartis retains the top spot as Most Admired drug firm

BASEL—Swiss drugmaker Novartis and a rejuvenated product portfolio, Novartis has retained its title of Most Admired Pharmaceutical Company in a poll of Wall Street traders, with Pfizer Inc. (pfizer.com) placing second.

In the biotechnology category, Amgen Inc. (amgen.com) regained the top position after a six-year absence, followed by Roche (roche.com), the new parent of 2009 takeover Genentech. For the third consecutive year, Allergan Inc. was voted Most Admired Specialty Company.

The top four among specialty companies were the same as last year, only with the order changed—Allergan Inc. (allergan.com) and Shire Plc. (shire.com) swapped the No. 2 and No. 4 places, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. (tevapharm.com) equaled last year at No. 3.

Novartis bills itself as a provider of healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies worldwide. The company's portfolio focuses on brand areas of healthcare that customers believe best meet these needs, such as innovative prescription medicines, cost-saving generic pharmaceuticals, preventive vaccines and diagnostic tools, and consumer health products.

In 2009, Novartis achieved another year of record results in numerous areas, with double-digit sales growth from recently launched products driven growth across the company's broad healthcare portfolio. Net sales rose 7 percent (11 percent in constant currencies), led by Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines and Diagnostics. Novartis' core net income was up 8 percent to $13.3 billion, while core earnings per share grew at a similar pace to $4.38.

Novartis earned more than 30 major regulatory approvals in the United States, Europe, and Japan during 2009. These included the new medicines Afinitor, Ilaris, Onbrez Breezhaler, and Tekturna. Other approvals include the first ever biosimilars in Japan and Canada, vaccines against Japanese encephalitis and the influenza A(H1N1) pandemic virus; and the launch of Prezista 24-hour once-daily treatment.

In R&D, Novartis is advancing 140 pharmaceutical projects (Phase I trials to registration). Pipeline highlights include the US and European regulatory submissions for FTY720 for multiple sclerosis.

The company's focus is on medicines and vaccines offering potential best-in-class status and health benefits. By exploring mechanisms of disease, teams at the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research are working to discover novel therapies. Budgets account for an increasing proportion of the company's exploratory pipeline.

Militants attack police in Karachi, kill 18

KARACHI—Militants armed with guns and a truck bomb demolished a police department used to detain terror suspects in Pakistan's biggest city of Karachi on Thursday, killing 18 people and wounding 138 others.

Pakistan's Taliban swiftly claimed responsibility for what was a new attack on government security forces in the south, a politically tense city of 18 million in the south, far removed from militant strongholds in the northwest.

Karachi is Pakistan's economic capital, home to its stock exchange and the freshest line pass where Nato supplies dock to be trucked overland to support the troops there. US$1,000 US$ led troops fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The attackers targeted the police's Crime Investigation Department in the most heavily protected heart of Karachi, not far from frontline hotel clashes frequented by Westerners, the US consulate and Pakistani government offices.

The band of militants opened fire, starting a gun battle with police before detonating their bomb in an attack that at least one official compared to the 2008 attack on the five-star Marriott hotel in Islamabad that killed 60 people.

Off duty policeman Mohammad Arshad, 32, described scenes of horror after narrowly escaping the bomb while popping out for a cup of tea.

"I heard a huge blast. I ran toward the site and saw dead bodies and injured lying on the ground," he told AFP, blood splattered across his clothes.

"I picked up the people one by one to take them to the hospital. What I saw was beyond imagination."

The compound was used to detain criminals and terror suspects, and contained a women's and a men's police station.

"There are 25 women and 30 children injured. A total of 138 injured people have been brought into our hospitals," Hamid Rukhro, police surgeon for southern province Sindh, of rubble Karachi in the capital, told AFP.

Doctor Seemi Jamali at the Jinnah Hospital confirmed more than 138 people were vaccinated and said that a police woman was among the dead.

Rukhro gave Reuters the area for up to two kilometers from the bomb site, where rescue workers installed search lights in the dark as they dug frantically through the rubble for survivors, an AFP reporter said.

"The building has been completely destroyed. I can see a crater of five metres," police official Tariq Rauaaq Dhuraja told AFP.

The Sindh police chief said 16 people were killed and that the attackers dismantled the security cordon at the department by opening fire on police. AFP

THE KARACHI blast site AFP

Iraq power-sharing deal falters

BAGHDAD—A power-sharing pact that ended all of 2010 failed to name a prime minister elect was looking feared on Friday after parliament ended its dismissal over claims the deal was broken just hours after being sealed.

The dispute sparked a dramatic walkout by a group of 50 MPs from a hastily-called session, underscoring the fragility of the agreement, which seeks to finally end Iraq's political impasse eight months after elections.

As part of the deal, brokered during three days of intensive talks, President Jalal Talabani, endorsed by MPs, named Maliki as the country's prime minister on Thursday evening.

That was overshadowed, however, by a dispute that prompted angry members of the Iraqiya bloc to storm out of the Council of Representatives chamber.

The support of Iraqiya, which narrowly won the March 7 poll and promised more of its seats in Sunni areas, it was an vital to preventing a resurgence of violence. The Sunni Arab minority that dominated Saddam Hussein's regime was the bedrock of the anti-US insurgency after the 2003 invasion.

"Last night, it was clear, there are a lot of disagreements," independent Kurdish lawmaker Mahmud Othman told AFP on Friday.

"Last night showed that the agreement is shaky—maybe it was signed behind closed doors, and when it came into the open, one side did not support it. Public opinion: Iraqiya will not be participating in the government, that will create problems."

Attempts by AFP to contact Iraqiya MPs and officials were not immediately successful.

Thursday evening's parliament session, only the second since the elections, had begun optimistically with Maliki and Iraqiya leader Iyad Allawi sitting side by side in the

MEMBERS of a Sunni-backed coalition walkout of of Iraq's parliament on Friday in a process before a vote on the presidency. AP

parliament chamber.

But shortly after the selection of Osama al-Najafi, a Sunni Arab and Iraqiya nominee, as speaker, verbal clashes erupted, with Iraqiya complaining that the process showing lined out and being flustered.

Speaker Maliki, it called for three of its top members, banned for their alleged ties to Saddam's Baath party, to be reinstated before voting for a president.

When their demands were not met, some 50 MPs left the chamber. After some confusion, the remaining MPs began voting to reelect Talabani. Maliki now has 30 days to form his cabinet, and the next parliamentary meeting is scheduled for Saturday.

"We boycotted the session because we showed good intentions to others, but they stabbed us in the back," Salah al-Mutlak, one of the six Iraqiya members remained, told AFP.

"We will not tolerate sectarian international governments," he added, without elaborating.

The power-sharing deal originated that a Sunni Arab hold the post of speaker, and that Talabani and Maliki retain their posts.

It also established a statutory body to oversee security in a nod to former premier Iyad Allawi, who had held out for months to take the job from Maliki after his Iraqiya bloc narrowly won the most votes in the March 7 polls.

Iraqiya has said its participation hinged on four conditions: a bill forming the security body, a committee examining cases against political detainees, codifying the powers-sharing deal and cancelling the bans against the three Iraqiya members.

Allawi has repeatedly accused Maliki of monopolizing security decisions during his first term, and he has back to its security ago. Elected Iraqi had floated the idea of a new committee weighed in the powers of the president's office in a way of breaking the deadlock over the top job.

US President Barack Obama on Friday hailed the agreement as a "milestone" in Iraq's history.

The government will be "representative, inclusive and will reflect the will of the Iraqi people," he told a news conference at the conclusion of a G20 summit in Seoul, adding that Washington had long been lobbying for such a "broad-based government."

The US soldiers, which currently has fewer than 50,000 soldiers in Iraq, is due to withdraw all of its forces from the country by the end of 2011. AFP

Little harm found if gay ban lifted, pentagon report says

WASHINGTON—The draft of a new Pentagon report concluded that repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" law would not cause overall harm to the military but might cause temporary disruption, people familiar with the report said on Thursday.

The temporary disruption could be mitigated with effective leadership, the draft report said.

The people familiar with the report, who are in favor of repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" law to allow gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the armed forces, also said that the report did not recommend separate housing for gay service members. But they said the report showed that a number of active-duty service members opposed to openly gay service, with the largest proportion in the Marines and the Army.

Overall, however, they said that the report showed that the majority of active-duty service members said their families did not care if gay men and lesbians served openly.

The report, which is under review by the Pentagon's chiefs and military lawyers, is due to be released on Dec. 1. A number of its details were first reported on Thursday by The Washington Post.

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which represents some of the 13,000 gay men and lesbians discharged from the military since the 17-year-old law took effect, in part blamed the leadership of the Army and Marines for the opposition to repealing "don't ask, don't tell" among their rank-and-file.

"While the culture in those two branches may be somewhat different than the other services," Sarvis said, "before the surveys were even launched, the leadership at the very top within the Marines and Army had blood in the water by expressing their hostile opposition to open service."

Sarvis was referring to comments earlier this year by Gen. George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, and Gen. James T. Conway, at the time the commandant of the Marine Corps, expressing deep concerns about moving rapidly to repeal "don't ask, don't tell."

Last weekend the current commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, told reporters in California that ending the ban in the middle of two wars would be the "risk" for Marines, he said. "There is nothing more intimate than young men" who are "laying out, sleeping alongside of one another and sharing duties, hot and lots of brothers."

Amos was quickly rebuked by his commander by Adm. Mike Mullen, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who supports the repeal. On Thursday, Amos' spokesperson, Maj. Josephill Hendrix, said that Amos' comments had been about the nature of human interaction on the battlefield, not sleeping arrangements. Hendrix said that Amos had introduced his comments with the remark, "There's nothing more intimate than combat, and I want to make that point crystal clear."

The overall conclusions in the draft report, which included a survey of hundreds of thousands of active-duty service members and their families, were related on by gay rights groups to further their case on Capitol Hill to repeal. As it stands now, the prospects for Congress to make the repeal of the law remain uncertain, and it is unclear whether the leaked report will sway history Republicans who want to retain the ban.

"I'm not sure it's going to move very many if any, Republicans," a Senate Democratic leadership aide said on Thursday. "It's a developed issue."

New York Times News Service

French official gives details of terror cell

PARIS—One of five people arrested this week on suspicion of plans to commit acts of Islamic terror in France was "ready to die for the cause," a top French official said from Wednesday.

The official, Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux, told reporters that at least one had spent time in Afghanistan, and that the other four were planning to travel to Pakistan. He confirmed reports that one suspect had been involved in an assassination plot against the moderate rector of the Great Mosque of Paris.

There is a "real threat" of terrorist acts on French soil, "which we must not underplay nor overestimate," Hortefeux said. "We are doing everything to protect ourselves."

France has been on high alert against attacks for several weeks, deploying nearly 5,000 additional members of the military and police force to patrol sites deemed particularly vulnerable.

French authorities arrested the suspects Monday and Tuesday at Charles de Gaulle Airport and in Paris itself.

The five—one woman and four men—are all French citizens, some of Algerian descent, Hortefeux said. They "closely belong to the radical Islamist sphere," he added, and said there "will" had been "documented."

France's main terrorist threat comes from al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, al-Qaeda's affiliate in Algeria and other parts of North Africa. But the French have also taken seriously a US warning that al-Qaida, which is based in Pakistan, is planning "Mumbai style" attacks in major European cities. AFP/NH

TUESDAY

klik

P10

Bandera

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The WORLD

Lira Lorene B. Dasco

Burma to release Suu Kyi 'for sure'

RANGOON—The ruling generals of Burma (Myanmar) are certain to release detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest in the next few days, officials said on Friday in the wake of a controversial election.

"The authorities will release her. It is certain," a government official told AFP speaking on condition of anonymity.

Lawyers for the 65-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner, who has spent much of the past two decades locked up, say her current term of house arrest started with her imprisonment on May 14 last year and is due to end on Saturday.

"She will be released for sure as planned," said another government official who also declined to be named. "We are just waiting for the time to release her."

Suu Kyi's detention was extended by 18 months in August last year over a bizarre incident in which an American swam uninvited to her lakeside home, keeping her off the streets for the first election in 20 years.

"We believe the authorities will release her but we haven't gotten any confirmation. They cannot extend her detention according to the law," said one of her lawyers, Nyan Win.

"They should release her for the country," he added.

The daughter of Burma's founding father Gen. Aung San swept her National League for Democracy (NLD) to victory in elections two decades ago, but the party was never allowed to take power.

Her supporters have said she will hold a news conference at the NLD's headquarters if freed, suggesting she is likely to resist any attempt by the authorities to restrict her political activities.

Some observers believe her release would come with restrictions to ensure she cannot threaten the generals' hold on power.

Nyan Win has suggested she would refuse to accept any conditions on her release.

Some NLD youth members were waiting in front of the NLD headquarters on Friday and people planned to donate blood to a local hospital to mark the release of Suu Kyi. Nine police vehicles were seen patrolling the area.

When the soft-spoken but indomitable opposition leader was last released in 2002, she drew huge crowds wherever she went—as minutes that years of detention had not dimmed her immense popularity.

Nyan Win said he expects the authorities to open the road leading to Suu Kyi's house after her release but to leave some barricades in front of her home.

Her likely release is seen by observers as an effort by the regime to deflect criticism of Sunday's elections, the first since the 1990 vote.

The NLD was disbanded after boycotting Sunday's election. AFP

ALONE Suu Suu Kyi in photos taken on Oct. 1, 2007. AFP

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

NOTICE

NAME OF EMPLOYER(S)	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEATH
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Beermen finish strong, reclaim solo top spot /A32

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Pucay, 2 others make halfway cut

GINGA PINE—Marc Pucay, Ambrosio Lacanlalay and Jay Ogenia recorded identical rounds to maintain the halfway cut of the $2-mil Iron Monkey Singapore Open Friday.

Pucay shot a 6-under par 66 for a 36-hole total of 137. Lacanlalay posted a 68 for 138 and Ogenia had a 69 for 139.

The cut was pegged at 3 under with Jason Knowles failing to make it at 1-under 141 on rounds of 75-71. Also missing the weekend play were Angelo Que (73-73—146), Gerard Rosales (75-72—147) and Antonio Monasterio (69-78—147).

Two-time winner Adam Scott sizzled with a second-straight 65 (10) to take a two-stroke lead over defending champion Ian Poulter of England. Agence France-Presse

Weight issues hound Margarito

MARGARITO has his hands wrapped before a workout. —

By Roy Luarca

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS—Trainer Freddie Roach and conditioning coach Alex Ariza insisted yesterday that Antonio Margarito is having trouble making the 154-pound limit for his Nov. 13 fight with Manny Pacquiao.

Dispelling the declarations of trainer Robert Garcia that Margarito was already close to the weight limit for the showdown at the Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, Ariza said the Mexican was seen jogging Tuesday night.

Ariza said it was a close indication that Margarito, the former two-time world champion, is still shedding off pounds.

During the preflight conference Tuesday, Ariza noted that Margarito was seen jogging at around 10 p.m. Tuesday (9:00 a.m. Wednesday in Manila), Garcia said Margarito was already down to 152 lb.

Margarito in sweat suit

But Roach insisted that boxers **make weight** "on the day of the fight," not a week before it.

"Don't give me that crap," said Roach, noting that Margarito still wore a sweat suit during the open workout held at the Longhorn Ballroom Hall of the Gaylord Texan Hotel here.

While the extra weight continues to hound Margarito, the opposite is happening with Pacquiao, who's eating in his gloves and has no trouble keeping his weight at between 147 and 148 lb before the official weigh-in Friday at the Outside Lot Plaza of the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington City.

After his final workout Thursday **afternoon, Pacquiao will land the** energy to join with the MP band in a cardiovascular arena, 90 minutes away from the makeshift boxing ring.

Pacquiao is preparing for a contest in Lake Tahoe in the border of California and Nevada on Nov. 14.

Pacquiao also ran and did situps at the trade of the Manny Pacquiao Boulevard near Dallas.

Quality sparmates toughen up Pacquiao

By Roy Luarca

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS—If the quality of sparmates were the gauge, Manny Pacquiao holds a huge edge over Antonio Margarito.

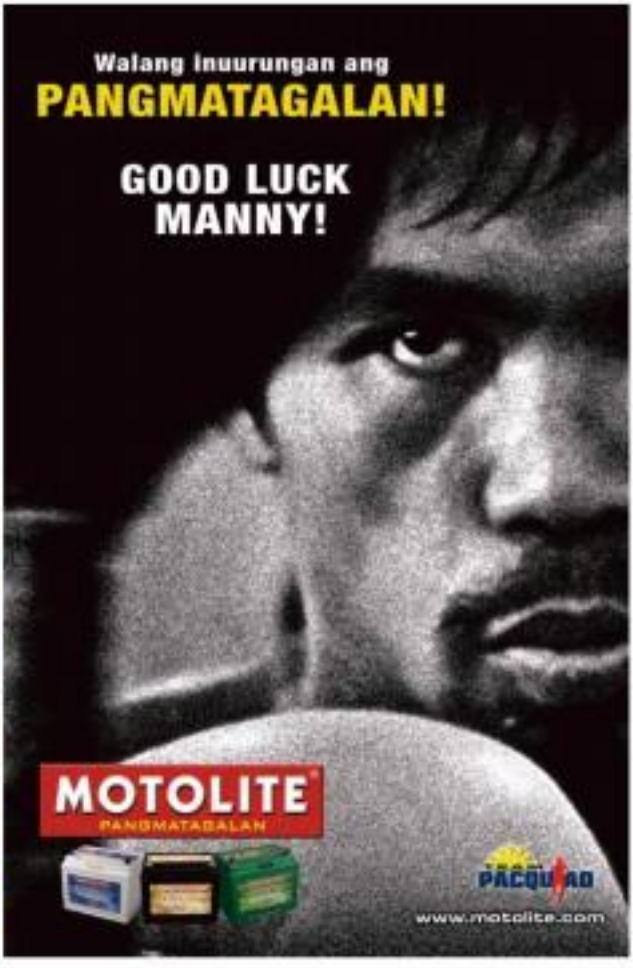
Pacquiao, through chief trainer Freddie Roach, was able to bring Glen Tapia and Michael Medina to Baguio City for the early part of his training camp.

Then Roach added WBA junior welterweight champion Yesin Slim to the equation after noticing that Pacquiao showed down a bit while slugging it out against strong scorn Tapia (30-0, 18KOs) and Medina (29-2-2, 18KOs), who are both light middleweights.

Slim, who was able to infuse speed back into Pacquiao's arsenal, holds a 23-0-1 record with 17 knockouts.

With Pacquiao back in form, Roach found little need to get bigger sparmates and instead hired David Rodela, Rashad Holloway and Ray Beltran.

Though Margarito's sparmates —Cleotis Brodarick (18-3-2, 6 KOs), Shinobi Pillman (16-2, 9 KOs), Justin Tear (21-8, 11 KOs) and SC Martinez (2-0)—are a good lot, none of them is really capable of imitating Pacquiao's style or matching his celebrated speed.



Pinoys start medal drive today

Billiards, dancesports aces plunge into action; PH five battles Kuwait

By Francis TJ. Ochoa

GUANGZHOU—A powerhouse team of billiards players expected to raise gold and a clutch horse group of athletes trying to insert the words "couples" and "romance" into sporting lexicon kick off their medal bids Saturday as the 16th Asian Games officially get going in various sprawling venues here.

Also expected to draw attention is the lineup of the national basketball team, which makes its debut Sunday versus against a Kuwait team playing under the International Olympic Committee flag because the oil-rich Arab state's national Olympic committee was suspended due to government interference in sports.

Efren "Bata" Reyes and Roberto Gomez will spearhead the Philippine charge to a sport whose the country is universally regarded as its epicenter.

Dancesport, which refers to its pairs as "couples" and considers the "romance" between partners, however manufactured, as crucial to victory, hopes to produce the country's first gold in its Asiad debut.

"We will finally go out there and try our best," said Reyes, called Carrom Maru, who will join Gloria Alcala on scoring counters of the 14-strong dancesport squad after original coach Nene Bermudez of Spain failed to secure accreditation.

'Team: tourists very high'

"The team's morale is very high right now," added Alcala.

The top couple of Dennis Vergara and Charlen Lagunzo placed second and lost to champion Bulgaria by the slimmest of margins in an International Dance Sport Federation world open recently and will lead the 19% chances' bid to the weekend event that makes 38 gold medals, five of which will be up for grabs Saturday.

All eyes, though, will be on Smart Gilas, a team created specifically to take a crack at the 2012 London Olympics, as it opens its bid in its biggest tournament two days after controversy reportedly hit the team over an unsurrendered player.

Reports trashing the Philippine swimmers revealed that police were called to investigate out a hotel incident involving Aldrich Ramos, who was refused entry while arriving here without accreditation.

Ramos was one of two players cut from the squad Thursday. Also failing to make it was former UAAP MVP and Santo Tomas hotshot Ogie Alcasid.

The boxy-to-steel but model ace Wesley Gallo or Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas officials for comment.

PBA stars Asi Taulava, Jeff Chan and Kelly Williams will headline the Smart Gilas team made up mainly of former college superstars.

Former Ateneo Jumpolo Japeth Aguilar, who played in the US NCAA Division I for Western Kentucky, former Ateneo gunner Chris Tiu, ex-Far Eastern U ace Mac Belmonte and former Cebu college standout Greg Slaughter are among the key players of the team coached by Serbian Rajko Toroman.

"We're ready for Kuwait," assistant coach Alan Gregorio said recently.

Watts: another gold prospect

Preliminary events in swims, another sport tagged as a gold prospect for PH, all to claim Saturday with Mary Jhoe Rebaya opening at 7:20 p.m. at the Nanhu gym in the women's 52-kg class against a fifth-seeded opponent.

Also seeing action are top gold hope Edward Hidayang (men's 70 kg), Dexter Labrador (men's 66 kg), Marlene Mirasol (women's 46 kg) and Benjie Rivera (men's 56 kg).

Boxers Arman Arnaquita

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8 vying in Ford-C! Magazine top driver search

THE SEARCH for the country's most racing star gets tougher as eight qualifiers from across 650 drivers in the qualifying stages vie for Silver Island Sports today at the Circuit Class leader of the 2010 Ford-C! Top Driver Challenge at the Clark International Speedway.

The eight qualifiers are SIRIMOR winners Lindyson Uriz, Paulo Bringas and Randy Lao, and Ford dealership champions Paul Monasterial, Mark Angelo Villanova, Michael Bonato, Arthur Andres and Elbie Muñoz.

SPORTS

SAN MIGUEL'S Arwind Santos overpowers Barako Bull's Mark Isip. ALEJANDRO BALUCANAG

Beermen finish strong, reclaim solo top spot

By Mueng B. Castillo

SAN MIGUEL broke away in the final period and plastered Barako Bull, 94-81, last night to reclaim the solo lead in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations round at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen dropped a 10-0 bomb after the Blaze Masters had opened up the payoff route with a Floyd Arzilla basket to lead for the last time, and San Miguel went on to pick up its seventh win in nine starts.

"It's a good thing that our defense clicked in the fourth quarter," coach Ato Agustin told reporters in Filipino.

"I reminded them as early as the second quarter that we cannot relax," Agustin continued.

Arwind Santos scored 19 points and had 10 boards and Danny Seigle sunk his old deadly self, finishing with 17 points.

Seigle missed just one triple attempt, two two-point tries and made all five of his free throws in a 23-minute stint.

"I think he just wants to prove something," Agustin said of Seigle.

Alex Tuik 'Al' Ibay dropped six solo second with the San Miguel relic.

Gordon Herbosa was second 16 points and Jay Washington scored all his 11 points in the first three periods for the Beermen, who bounced back from a shocking no. 8 loss to Rain or Shine last week.

The loss was the third straight in a 2-6 card for the Energy Boosters, who ended big early but made a game out of it early in the second period when Mac Andrada scored on a short stab that made it 39-all.

Mark Isip tossed in 22 points and Sunday Salvacion had 17 for the Boosters, whose loss dropped a full-game behind the 4th 2-5.

Alex Mallebuday and Roger Yap scored 20 points each and Jed Dorby has to say 60-75 victory over Powerade into in the night, the defending champion and defending-night win.

Mallebuday's last season's top rookie, also collared 13 rebounds, while Yap had nine boards and six assists as the Llamados beat 6-0 and dealt the Tigers a third straight loss in a 1-5 card.

Fil-German bows out in ITF semis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AMERICAN MAMON Schnack ended the homestown crowd's fascination with Katerina Lehnert when she ousted the Fil-German, 6-3, 7-5, yesterday to reach the finals of the P125,000 ITF women's tennis circuit week 2.

The weather finally cooperated and the matches were as scheduled, but the 22-year-old American, the sixth seed, spoiled everything by taking the fifty-one hour, 10-minute battle at the third Rhinestone Tennis Center.

The 19-year old Lehnert, who has taken temporary residence in a condominium in front of the sports complex, had sustained fifth seed Chris Yi of Chinese Taipei earlier in the day in the conclusion of their quarterfinal match halted by rains Thursday.

Schnack, who was champion and runner-up in a similar $10,000 ITF tests event in Mexico last month, advanced against third seed Elodie Reggio-Hesnich of France, who stopped last week's champion Rita Sussmann, 6-1, 6-3, in the other semifinal.

The long-serving Schnack started off strong by taking the first three games of the first set, before Lehnert fought back to close it at 3-2.

Sarenas, Kelly seek URCC crowns tonight

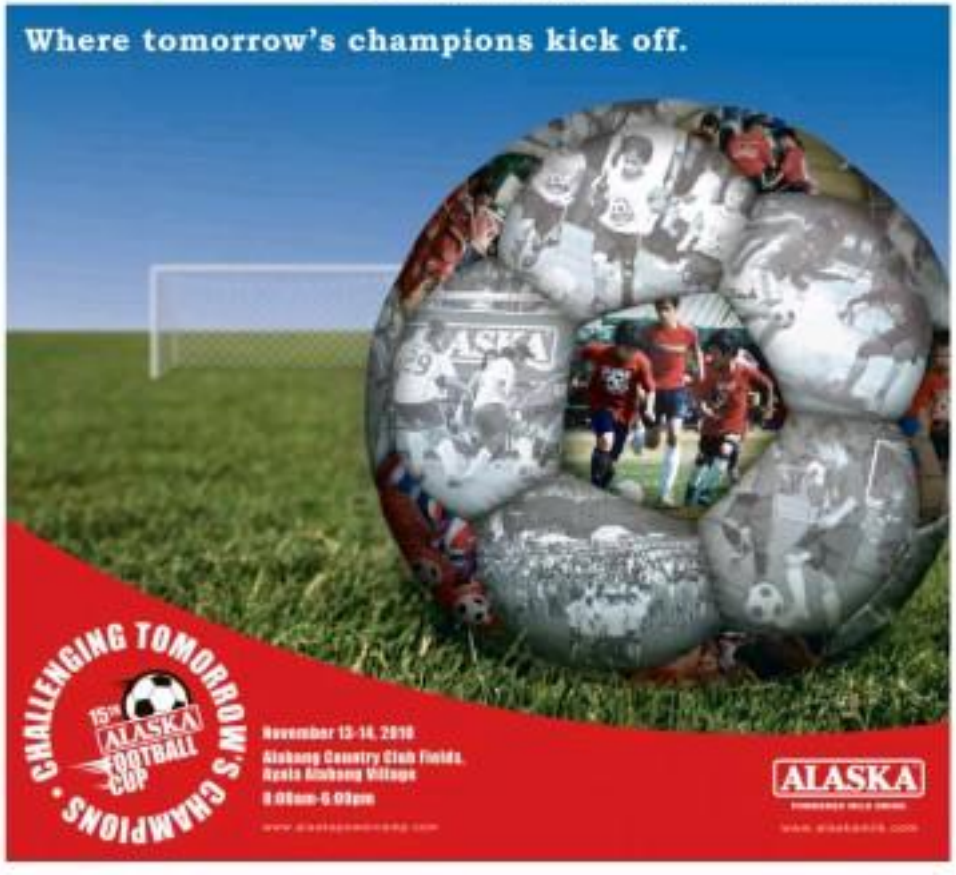
RISING STARS Frolian Sarenas and Jess Kelly seek Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC) 'Rise' strawweight titles tonight at the A. Venue Events Hall in Makati.

Seeking to follow-up his impressive victory over Ioanina Razo Aldrael in July, Sarenas of Submission Sports Philippines battles Jerry Legaspi of Ignored for the main/lowweight title.

Kelly of 'Sire' Van Arsdjenas faces Nate Flores of Saigon's Predator Gym has Rivalldo for the main/strawweight title in the event presented by Cok 45 and Tribal Gear.

"All fights are going to be a close call, nobody holds a clear advantage," said URCC founder Aires Agudos.

The Sarenas-Legaspi clash was elevated into a title fight after Chinese Zhang Tiequan signed up with 15 promotion PEC.



IN THIS ISSUE
- SMIC 9-month net profit grew by 16% to P12.5B /B5
- PH now in an economic 'sweet spot,' says BSP /B8

Editor Raul G. Manalo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Gov't debt burden swells to ₱4.69T

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 11, 2011
43.760

STOCK MARKET
Nov. 11, 2011
67.73

Stocks extend losses

LOCAL STOCKS extended their losses for a sixth straight session yesterday as profit-taking pressures prevailed following last week's run-up to record highs.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index gave up 67.73 points or 1.6 percent to close at 4,070.68.

The local bourse saw its worst beating this week since the bull run in September. The main index shed 272.43 points or 6.3 percent on profit-taking even bolstered good tidings from a relatively favorable third-quarter earnings outside the index' heavyweight telecom sector.

All counters traded in the red but the selldown hit the financial and mining-oil counters the worst, respectively tumbling 2.9 percent and 2.2 percent.

Value turnover eased to ₱4.64 billion. There were 110 decliners as against 34 advancers and 28 unchanged issues.

Despite the overall index decline, foreign investors were starting to crowd for bargains as they were back in a net foreign buying position amounting to ₱119 million.

After closing back some gains in previous days, PLDT tumbled down alongside profit-taking on Metro Pacific, Megaworld, Ayala Land, Universal Robina, Cebu Air, PNB, Metrobank, Banco de Oro, Ayala, SMIC Holdings, ICTSI, EDC, Filinvest Land, Atlas Mining and

STOCKS B2

Borrowings increased by P86B in August

By Reena F.W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT'S debt rose to ₱4.69 trillion as of August, increasing by ₱86 billion or 1.9 percent from the previous month's level mainly due to the net issuance of government securities, particularly debt paper that were floated abroad, the Bureau of the Treasury said.

With the population estimated at 94.81 million this year, the amount of total outstanding debt would mean that each citizen has a share of ₱49,505.

Treasury documents as total outstanding debts showed that 58 percent or ₱2.73 trillion were borrowed from local lenders. This was up 3.9 percent or ₱102.8 billion from ₱2.63 trillion in July.

The increase was due to the government issuing more government securities than what were redeemed.

On the other hand, 42 percent or ₱1.96 trillion of total outstanding debts were booked to foreign currencies such as the dollar, euro and yen, which the Treasury refers to as third currencies.

Aside from loans contracted by multilateral lenders and official aid from foreign governments, the Philippines also borrows in international through the issuance of bonds denominated in these currencies.

The foreign borrowings were down ₱16.3 billion or 0.8 percent from the ₱1.98 trillion owed to overseas lenders in July.

The increase in foreign debt was attributed mainly to the government making more payments than new borrowings.

The decrease was also driven by the appreciation of the peso against the dollar, which slashed another ₱24 billion from the debt stock.

However, the drop in foreign borrowings was partially offset by the appreciation of the yen and the euro against the greenback, which added ₱9.3 billion to the debt stock.

DEBT B4

SM INVESTMENTS BULLISH ON 2011
Hailey Sy, president of SM Investment Corp., presides over the briefing on SMIC's financial performance for the first nine months of 2011. Flanking Sy are Jeffrey Lim (left), CFO of SM Prime Holdings, and Jose Sio, CFO of SMIC. See related story on page B5.

STORY ON B5

Gov't to channel dollar inflows to PPP projects

By Abigail L. Ho

TOKYO, JAPAN—As emerging economies struggle to get a hold of their appreciating currencies in light of the weak dollar, the Department of Finance said the government would not resort to protectionist policies but instead channel its dollar inflows into public-private partnership projects.

"This is an opportunity to reduce the infrastructure gap and improve productivity. It's a rare opportunity and we'll take advantage of it," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima told reporters here late Thursday.

The government would be holding a PPP Summit in Manila on Nov. 17-18, an event that is hoped would generate signoffs from foreign investors in infrastructure projects from the private sector.

Purisima said problems related to the appreciation of the peso had less to do with the actual strength of the local currency but more with the weakness of the dollar. Protectionist policies, therefore, were not the answer.

"Trying to stop that is like trying to stop a wave in the Manila Bay. You can't do that. You can only smooth it and create the necessary interventions when the currency gets too volatile," he said.

As with other member economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, he said the Philippines sought "coordinated action" on the currency woes being suffered by emerging economies as a result of the United States' "quantitative easing" policy, which involved pumping $600 billion into the US economy.

The US government had already spent about $1.7 trillion—the first tranche of its quantitative easing strategy—in an effort to pull the country out of recession.

The Federal Reserve's latest bond-buying spree has pushed the value of the dollar down even more, resulting in the accelerated and almost unruly appreciation of currencies in emerging markets. This has led to policy interventions on the part of some governments, including the imposition of regulatory controls and taxes on capital inflows.

Right now, Purisima said it was important to have a framework based on countries' action among their economies that recognized the current reality that developed economies were growing more slow-

GOV'T B4

Fitch forecasts slight dip in PH banks' profits in 2011

By Michelle V. Ruiz

FITCH RATINGS said it expected the profitability of Philippine banks to decline in 2011, citing the likely increase in interest rates that could dampen opportunities in generating income from treasury operations.

"Bank profits could moderate downwards in 2011 if net interest rates were to rise," Andrew de Silva, senior director for financial institutions group at Fitch, said in an interview with the business.

Nonetheless, de Silva said income of banks would still be within considerable levels despite the

FITCH B4

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10-124	Commercial lot w/ improvements	J.N.P. Bonanza Rd., Mulanggo, Davao City (commercial corner)	1,000.00 / 1,000.00	₱3,200,000
10-125	Commercial lot w/ improvements	Rd. Extension Rd., Mulanggo, Davao City (commercial corner)	1,000.00 / 1,000.00	₱3,200,000
10-130	Agricultural vacant lot	Diversion Road, Km 8, Brgy. Tibungco, Davao City (Sasa Wharf)	10,000	₱3,000,000
10-131	Industrial lot w/ improvements	San Miguel Homes, Davao City (formerly RUBCO)	1,000.00 / 1,000.00	₱3,000,000
10-132	Residential vacant lots	Bonanza Highway, Brgy. Bago, Davao City (near Golf Course)	4,500	₱3,150,000
090-2010	Mixed-use vacant lots	Barrio Obrero, Brgy. Talomo, Davao City (near Lizada)	10,000	₱3,000,000
089-2010	Mixed-use vacant lots	Barrio Obrero, Brgy. Talomo, Davao City (near Lizada)	10,000	₱3,000,000

Auction Day: November 26, 2010, Davao City (venue and time to be announced)

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		VISAYAS		
090-017	Subdivision lot (residential lots)	Sitio Upanan, Brgy. Mandaue, Cebu Province City, Visayas	1,196.4 / 750.0	₱1,500,000
091-2010-002	Mixed-use vacant lots	Brgy. Banilad, Mandaue, Cebu Province City, Visayas (near Ayala Mall)	13,000	₱13,000,000
088-010	Commercial lot	Real Estate Drive, Brgy. Mandaue Banilad, Cebu Province City, Visayas	1,200	₱2,000,000
10-114	Commercial vacant lots	Lot 1 and 2, B-1 Blk. 39, Banilad Rd., Mabolo, Cebu, Mandaue Cebu	1,875	₱3,000,000

Auction Day: November 27, 2010, Cebu City (venue and time to be announced)

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FACILITY	Email: [illegible]
LUZON	Email: [illegible]

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DAVAO OFFICE: UNIT 27-27TH FL., LEMOH CORPORATE CENTER, J.P. LAUREL AVE., BAJADA, DAVAO CITY 8000 PHILS.

CURRENCIES

November 12, 2010 Country	Unit	Cash Purchase	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1	1.000000	43.000
Japan	Yen	0.0087	0.011100	0.377
United Kingdom	Pound	1.5625	1.5100	72.240
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.1249	0.128205	5.500
Australia	Dollar	0.9615	0.961538	41.346
New Zealand	Dollar	0.7353	0.735294	31.618
Canada	Dollar	0.9804	0.980392	42.157
Singapore	Dollar	0.7813	0.775194	33.325
Switzerland	Franc	1.0309	1.030928	44.330
Norway	Krone	0.1667	0.166667	7.167
Sweden	Krona	0.1389	0.138889	5.972
Denmark	Krone	0.1923	0.192308	8.269
Euro	Euro	1.3333	1.333333	57.333
Thailand	Baht	0.0313	0.031250	1.344
UAE	Dirham	0.2688	0.272109	11.565
Taiwan	Dollar	0.0323	0.032258	1.387
Korea	Won	0.0008	0.000855	0.037
China	Yuan	0.1471	0.147059	6.324
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0001	0.000110	0.005
India	Rupee	0.0217	0.021739	0.935
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.3106	0.316456	13.601
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.2667	0.266667	11.467
Kuwait	Dinar	3.4483	3.448276	148.276
Bahrain	Dinar	2.6525	2.652520	114.048

Source: Bangko Sentralng Pilipinas

Stocks extend losses

From page B1

lucidity-limit.

Among the few advances were Alliance Global Group, SMIC and Alaska Equity Trust.

The local market had very little impetus to draw investors as the Dow Jones Industrial Index fell 73.91 points or 0.61 percent to 11,283.95.

Travis C. Bandalan

Gov't debt burden . . .

From page B1

In August, government debt papers denominated in dollars amounted to an equivalent of ₱1.02 trillion while yen and euro loans stood at ₱63.2 billion and ₱28.6 billion, respectively.

The government's total out-

Gov't to channel . . .

From page B1

ly than emerging markets.

The bigger problem that the world had to contend with, he said, was the possibility of emerging economies going into deflation.

Deflation is usually achieved by taising rates or interest rates. Some emerging market governments had already resorted to such moves to protect their currencies.

Instead of taking a protectionist stance, Pacitian said emerging economies should "step up" in terms of developing both their export and domestic markets. This would help minimize the spending of dollar inflows within their own countries.

San Miguel posts 9-month net profit of ₱12.7B

Four power units contribute P24.8B to revenues

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTIGATING CORRESPONDENT

San Miguel Corp. chalked up a nine-month consolidated net profit of P12.7 billion, performance spurred by the sale of a substantial stake in its beer business.

San Miguel yesterday disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its operating income rose to P19.7 billion, 30 percent higher than a year ago, as consolidated sales revenues amounted to P161.8 billion, 28 percent higher than last year's.

However, the company was unable to match the nine-month net profit of P16.9 billion posted last year when it sold its stake in flagship San Miguel Brewery Inc. This resulted in a 76 percent year-on-year decline in the bottom line, but this year's net profit was much higher compared with San Miguel's core net income of P7.83 billion accruals of the $608 windfall for January-September 2013.

In its report, San Miguel said revenues across its core businesses sustained the positive growth seen in its first-half performance.

Domestic beer revenues amounted to P40.1 billion, up 9 percent year-on-year while capacity-limited growth 20 percent to P13.5.3 billion from a year ago on account of higher volumes and stable raw material costs. Sales reached 121.9 million cases, growing 3 percent from a year ago.

The revenue beer business through San Miguel Beer International reported consolidated sales revenues of $398 million. While sustaining the growth of the San Miguel brand in Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam, the company said difficult market conditions in south China ensured a slight decline in sales revenues from a year ago.

Hard liquor unit Ginebra San Miguel Inc. chalked up P990 million in net profit for the nine-month period, 29 percent higher than a year ago as it sold 38.9 million cases or 7 percent higher in the domestic market. This resulted in an 16 percent increase in consolidated sales revenues to P16.6 billion from a year ago.

Consolidated operating income of the food group through San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc. was to P43.7 billion, surpassing the year-ago level by 81 percent mainly due to favorable raw material prices in poultry, basic meats, flour, and dairy. Consolidated sales revenues stood at P57.7 billion, 8 percent higher than last year's, from volume improvement in poultry, feeds, flour and processed meats.

Meanwhile, San Miguel's packaging arm posted an 18 percent increase in consolidated sales revenue to P17.1 billion. The surpassing saw higher glass and plastics volumes as well as in Australasia and Asia-Pacific accounts. Consolidated operating income rose up 4 percent to P1.49 billion.

San Miguel's four power plants—Ilijan, Limay, San Roque and Sual—generated total revenues of P40.2 billion as last year's strong income of P5.73 billion. This contributed revenues of P24.8 billion to the company.

Prime Orion Philippines, Inc.

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of Prime Orion Philippines, Inc. will be held on 22 November 2014 (Monday) at 2:00 p.m. at the Bulaqueñas and Guests in Villa Function Rooms, The Peninsula Manila, Makati City.

(Sgd.) Atty. Daisy L. Pañas
Corporate Secretary

ABS-CBN doubles net income to ₱2.9B in 9 months

By Rica T. Dilotsandro

ABS-CBN EBIDP generated a net income of P2.9 billion for the first nine months as it remained strong growth in regular advertising revenues until the end of the third quarter, company officials said.

This profit level was more than double the net income of P1.3 billion in the first nine months of 2009.

ABS-CBN chief finance officer Rolando Valdueza said in a briefing that in the third quarter alone, the company generated a 58 percent increase in net income to P606 million from P506 million last year.

Consolidated revenues for the first nine months reached P16.7 billion, a 20 percent growth from P13.9 billion a year ago. Advertising revenues accounted for 68 percent of consolidated revenues while consumer sales accounted for the remaining 32 percent.

For the third quarter, revenues rose to P5.8 billion from P4.6 billion last year.

ABS-CBN maintained its national audience share and ratings leadership as total day audience share averaged 41 percent in the third quarter, with a lead of seven percentage points over GMA 7, going by Kantar Media figures.

Consolidated sales reached P5.8 billion, posting an increase of P 956 million or 19 percent from a year ago, mainly from the contributions of Mybible and ABS-CBN Global.

Last Dec. 20, the company signed a syndicated term loan worth P16 billion to refinance existing debt facilities totalling P6.6 billion and to fund working capital requirements.

Valdueza said the capital raising exercise "takes advantage of prevailing low interest rates and the company's stronger financial performance in recent years to lessen its cost of debt and finish its expansion requirements."

"Consequently, ABS-CBN's effective interest rate on all its interest-bearing debt will go down by about two percentage points, from which the company expects to generate savings in annual interest expenses of more than P96 million. Apart from the savings that will be generated, the new loan agreement also incorporates more relaxed covenants," he said.

Gokongwei firm to sell more Cebu Pacific shares

By Paolo G. Montecillo

GOKONGWEI LEO CHAN Inc., operator of budget carrier Cebu Pacific, has decided to exercise its option to sell additional shares and raise more funds as part of the company's initial public offering (IPO) last month.

In a disclosure, the company yesterday said it had agreed to exercise its over-allotment option to sell 22.376 million shares in the public.

Gokongwei Inc., Cebu's parent firm and a subsidiary of JG Summit Holdings Inc., will be the selling entity. This will be on top of the 214.82 million shares the company earlier sold during the IPO last Oct. 16.

The new shares to be sold are priced at P5.25 billion based on Cebu Air's share price of P1,294.50 stock. This was lower than the company's listing price of P165.

Cebu Pacific's IPO the first in the Philippines in more than a year, was one of the biggest listings by any company in the country. It was also the largest internationally offered IPO for a low-cost carrier in the world.

The day it went public, its share price rose 6.4 percent or P8 to P133 each. Last week, Cebu Air shares were trading as low as P117.

Cebu Pacific plans to use the proceeds of the share sale to expand its domestic and international route network through the acquisition of several more aircraft.

The airline expects the delivery of 29 brand new Airbus aircraft between 2014 and 2024.

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Text us your feedback: inquirer.hsi.science@gmail.com / hsi.inquirer@gmail.com

'Dilaw na luya' shows promise vs breast cancer

By Tess R. Salazar

AMONG THE many super plant foods humanity was gifted with, curcumin (dilaw na luya in the vernacular) typically stands out—so much so that scientists have dubbed it "curcumin."

This plant, previously associated only with its yellow spice called curry, has been undergoing clinical trials in prestigious scientific institutions across the world 112 active clinical trials of curcumin are ongoing in the United States, Israel and Hong Kong). Some of these trials are involving the effects of curcumin in colon cancer, pancreatic cancer, Alzheimer's disease, psoriasis, epilepsy, gall bladder cancer and cervical cancer, among others.

The only downside to curcumin, it seems, is its poor bioavailability (absorption) into the human body. Other than that, however, the benefits of curcumin are tantalizing the medical community. These benefits include depleting cells of Her2/neu protein (responsible for a certain type of breast cancer) in show treatments in cellular experiments.

The Her2/neu type of cancer, which affects 30 percent of human cancer patients, has a poor prognosis.

Dr. Bharat Aggarwal, professor of Cancer Medicine (Biochemistry) and chief of Cytokine Research Lab at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, whom this writer was able to interview over the phone a few months ago, sent a copy of his commentary (coauthored by Ajay Goel, Kuzhuvelil B. Harikumar) published by Elsevier Inc. in Science Direct in 2007.

CURCUMIN is being studied for its ability to suppress tumor growth, especially in the colon, duodenum, esophagus, stomach, liver, breast, bone marrow, oral cavity and prostate.

Accumulating evidence

The commentary cited accumulating evidence showing curcumin's molecular targets in the cytokine, kinase, growth factors and their receptors, cytokines, enzymes and genes regulating cell proliferation and apoptosis (cancer cell death).

One example showed that most human cancer cells overexpress epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and Her2/neu, which ultimately stimulates the proliferation of cancer cells. "Cellular experiments in vitro have shown that chow more curcumin took curcumin inhibits EGFR kinase activity cells and depletes Her2/neu protein," Aggarwal said.

A previous clinical trial by Aggarwal and his colleagues has also shown that curcumin is safe even at high doses (as much as 12 g/day) in humans.

"Despite the lower bioavailability, the therapeutic efficacy of curcumin against various human diseases, including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, arthritis, neurological diseases and Crohn's disease, has been demonstrated. The enhanced bioavailability of curcumin in the near future is likely to bring this promising natural product to the forefront of therapeutic agents for the treatment of human diseases," Aggarwal concluded.

World pays attention to a silent killer

PREDICTION No wise considering the elderly have a higher risk for developing pneumonia than the general population.

By Charles E. Bulson

YESTERDAY'S OBSERVANCE of the World Pneumonia Day is sending a powerful message—despite being highly preventable and treatable, the infection that affects the lungs is both responsible for killing more than two million children under the age of five while at the same time, for the hospitalization and eventually the death of millions of elderly individuals each year worldwide.

World Pneumonia Day decided it's never too late to bring this health crisis to the public's attention and encourage policymakers and grassroots organizers that with existing tools like vaccines, early diagnosis and proper treatment with antibiotics, millions of children and elderly individuals could be saved.

The observance here in the Philippines reiterated the message that the prevention of invasive pneumococcal disease through immunization is considered the single most important preventive measure to decrease the incidence and prevent mortality and morbidity in both children and elderly Filipinos, citing a World Health Organization reminder that vaccination is the only available tool to prevent pneumococcal disease.

Resistance to drugs

The WHO is concerned that an increasing pneumococcal resistance to essential antimicrobial drugs, and the ease with which resistant strains can spread all over the world, have underlined the importance of control through vaccination.

Recognizing this fact, the City of Pasig was inspired to start an outreach drive every Wednesday wherein a number of their elderly will be able to receive an anti-pneumonia vaccine for free.

Through the Super Lingap program, Mayor Bobby Eusebio, the city council and city health officer, Dr. Georgiana Galicinao, recently started the "May Say Lolo at Lola, Pamilyapan Kontra Pneumonia" campaign that provides for free pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine 23 supplied by Sanofi Pasteur (Philippines).

The Pasig health campaign dedicated its give importance to the elderly considering that this age group, especially those with recent viral infections, lung disease and swallowing problems, have a higher risk for developing invasive pneumococcal disease than the general population.

While the administration of the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine 23 is proving to be a cost-effective means to prevent getting seriously sick from the disease, the campaign will also remind the elderly as well as the children in their family to also practice good hygiene habits, such as washing with soap or covering mouth when coughing or sneezing...In order to reduce the number of pneumonia-related infections.

Group eyes eradication of elephantiasis in the country

By Theresa Sarmiento

IT IS a chronic, infectious and disfiguring disease that leads to severely enlarged arms, legs and even genital areas that may usually appear pebbly, elevated and darkened. While elephantiasis, also known as lymphatic filariasis, leaves a patient scarred physically, this debilitating illness may also psychologically as well.

What is even worse said is that the drought that while elephantiasis has been reported as "eradicable" by 2020, it remained a major public health problem worldwide, including the Philippines.

According to the Coalition for the Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (CELF) Philippines, almost 120 million people in 83 countries were diagnosed to be infected with elephantiasis. In the Philippines, the number continues to grow with already more than 400,000 Filipinos suffering while another 22.5 million were deemed to be at risk.

CELF Philippines, a nonstock, nonprofit organization that envisions an elephantiasis-free Philippines by 2015, further disclosed that the rising number of such cases in the country is resulting to economic losses estimated at $38.7 million every year.

With the alarming rise in numbers of people afflicted with elephantiasis, CELF is again drumming up its campaign awareness initiatives this November, which has been declared by the government, via Executive Order 388, as the month for mass treatment of elephantiasis in established endemic areas.

According to CELF, a bite of a infamic mosquito (i.e. Aedes pseudio, Mansonia bonnae, Anopheles barbirostris) can easily transfer a thread-like parasitic worm, which inhabits and breeds in the lymphatic system of its human host.

Symptoms

The thread-like worm resides in the body for four to six years, causing blockage of the vessels and suppression of lymph. Nominally, symptoms of elephantiasis do not appear until years after infection.

Once infected though, a person may experience chills, fever and an entire feeling of being ill. The physical effects of this parasitic chest manifest.

To date there are 42 provinces in the Philippines that have been found to be endemic of elephantiasis and most of these areas are located in the poor provinces in Luzon and Mindanao. In particular, Region 3 (3.61 percent) and the ARMM (2.52 percent) were reported to have the highest prevalence.

CELF Philippines believes having an elephantiasis-free Philippines can only be achieved through the execution of distribution of Diethylcarbamazine (DEC) and albendazole. Once these drugs have been administered to a population of over 65 percent of the endemic community, it is hoped that the cycle of elephantiasis infection will be finally broken.

ANTI-FILARIASIS mass drug administration project in Iloilo

Training

The second objective does, according to CELF, is to implement the training of health workers, who in turn, will educate the family members of the patient for effective home-based self-care to control and reduce morbidity caused by elephantiasis.

For its part, CELF said its main mission was also to eliminate elephantiasis by helping the government and private sectors toward a comprehensive coverage. Specifically, it aims to increase disease awareness by as much as 60 percent as well as mass drug administration by up to 65 percent.

The coalition is also expected to promote unity, understanding, teamwork, fund raising and pooling of resources for ELF program and will serve as a channel for disseminating appropriate information and advocacy.

Finally, the coalition will also serve as a forum to promote research, innovations for elephantiasis prevention, diagnosis and management of morbidity monitoring, evaluation and research, the group added.

8 feel-good years with H&L

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

IT'S BEEN a great eight years. Sixty years next week, are hope to complete the December 2018 issue which is the 8th anniversary issue of H&L (Health & Lifestyle) magazine.

Late in 2002—almost out of injudice—several doctor-friends and I decided to publish a different kind of magazine for doctors and healthcare professionals. We wanted to offer a publication for doctors who write as an avocation—discussing an MD's talent beyond his clinical acumen or surgical skills. Hence, the maiden issue of H&L came out in December 2002, and has been coming out monthly since then. It is distributed to doctors and healthcare professionals for free.

We mentioned a magazine that would help give us scientific updates to its doctor-readers in easy-to-understand nuggets about them and style. Not in the technical manner provided by medical journals, many volumes of which remain unread in the doctors' offices; but in a simple writing style, attractively laid out in a glossy magazine format with colorful images to reinforce the scientific updates and articles.

Encouraged by feedback

We are encouraged by the feedback of colleagues who relate that they learn an update or two whenever they visit H&L. Published highlights of selected lectures in big local and foreign conventions make those who were ill during the conventions and learned from them via the highlighted summaries of lectures, feel they don't have to spend a peso or lesser their clinic practice to attend these conventions. The magazine tries to spotlight important lectures and discussions in as much as possible. After all, the advocacy to inform and update its readers is a main objective of H&L.

But right at the start, we also figured that doctors do not want to read solely medical articles, no matter how informative they may be. At the end of a busy day, as a doctor sits down on his favorite couch to sit for mind to unwind, he or she wants to read other articles which may be of interest to him or her as a person, not necessarily as a doctor. After all, the doctor is also a human being! Hence, we aimed to provide balance in the magazine contents between medical and nonmedical articles. A sensible balance of articles that make for a leisurely reading that can educate as well as entertain.

Toward the latter is the purpose for H&L's lifestyle section—which tackles any topic from the spiritual on the comedic. From the educational to the strictly entertainment. In private articles that will interest the average physician beyond his clinical and academic concerns. It includes topics like sports, hobbies, dining, movie and book reviews, fashion, and travel destinations.

After reading the last page of the magazine, the editorial staff would like readers to feel good. This "feel-good" effect has become the overriding aim of every issue of H&L. And before the magazine is put to bed, the staff has to be confident that the issue will achieve this "feel-good" effect. And as we've left good morning up all day with the updates and articles together for any particular issue.

Feel good

All the challenges and hurdles notwithstanding, we've been a great eight years. Right feel good (and if we are very grateful) in our all-being and all-generous Provider in heaven, who has always provided us the "lifeline and breathing support" when the high tide of producing a full-color, glossy magazine was like a ship caught adrift on tossed sea waves.

Other medical magazines and authors ask why we persist in publishing H&L and other health magazines (Habemus and Zen Health) despite the constant struggle to undertake even just a trace of profitability for the human line when the balance sheet is made, we just answer: "The mandate of the investment is not to make money but to fulfill an advocacy." We hasten to add, "Besides, we enjoy doing it. It makes us feel good." Indeed, the feel-good bug has really hit us.

For all these eight wonderful years of "feeling good," we also sincerely thank very much all the contributors—the members of our medical advisory board (many of whom—Doctors Kenny B Abanzado Jr. and Herminiano B. Calleja—grace the cover by the 8th anniversary issue), all our readers, contributing writers and photographers, printers, all our industry partners and advertisers—whose kind support enabled us to keep going.

Abasang, maraming salamat po! And we look forward to many more feel-good years as we share together in publishing H&L.

SMIC 9-month net profit grew by 16% to ₱12.5B

By Doris C. Dumlao

Holding firm earmarks P50B in fresh capital outlay for '11

JG Summit sees 113% rise in net income

Trans-Asia suffers loss of ₱98.7M as of Sept.

By Amy R. Remo

Pacific Online profit hit ₱220M as of Sept. 2010

By Paolo G. Montecillo

Fitch sees slight dip . . .

Previous Page B1

OPEN AUCTION of PRIME PROPERTIES

NOVEMBER 20, 2010 | MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL, MAKATI CITY

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10:00 AM | AUCTION PROPER STARTS AT 11:00 AM

* NOW WITH REVISED AUCTION RULES & GUIDELINES *

* SELLER TO SETTLE PROPERTY RELATED EXPENSES OWING AS AT AUCTION DATE *

STARPROPERTIES invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis.

AUCT CODE	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LAND AREA (sqm) / FLOOR AREA (sqm)	MIN. BID PRICE
		CEBU		
10-111	Residential lot w/ improvements	Mirasol Subdivision, Talamban, Cebu City	1,000 / 1,000 (est.)	10,000,000
10-109	Residential lot w/ improvements	1050 Sergfield Road, Brgy. Tinaghoy, Mandaue City	1,000 / 1,000 (est.)	10,000,000
10-101 / 10-01	Residential property	Mayo Del Sol Subdivision, Brgy. Tinaghoy, Mandaue City	1,200 / -	3,000,000
10-110	Commercial lot w/ improvements	Brgy. Cogon Pardo, Cebu City	1,000 sq.m. / 1,000 (est.)	10,000,000
10-108	Residential condominium unit	Santander Village, Brgy. Mrs. Lapu, Mango City	43.00	10,000,000
10-113	Industrial lots	Sta. Ignacio Avenue & Sta. Ana Avenue, Sta. Ana, Cagayan de Oro	4,000 sq.m.	10,000,000
10-102	Residential lot w/ improvements	8-78 Mayapple St., Talamban, Cebu City	1,000 / 1,000 (est.)	10,000,000
10-103	Mixed use lot w/ improvements	No. 23 Mercedes St., Talamban, Brgy., Quezon City	1,000 / 1,000 (est.)	10,000,000
10-104	Residential lot	2 Mercedes St., Talamban, Brgy., Quezon City	1,000	10,000,000
10-105	Residential lot w/ improvements	2 Mercedes St., Talamban, Brgy., Quezon City	1,000	10,000,000
10-106	Residential lot	No. 8-78 Mayapple St., Talamban, Brgy., Quezon City	1,000	10,000,000
10-107	Residential lot	Lot 6, Blk. 7, Phase 1, Southern Heights, Cebu City	300	10,000,000
10-112	Residential lot w/ improvements	1050 Sergfield Road, Brgy. Tinaghoy, Mandaue City	1,000 / 1,000 (est.)	10,000,000
10-114	Commercial vacant lots	Mirasol Subdivision, Talamban, Cebu City	1,000	10,000,000
		LUZON		
10-115	Residential vacant lots	Southern Heights, Brgy. Mrs. Dalaguete, Langub City, Davao del Sur	60.00	10,000,000
10-116	Agricultural vacant lots	40th Barangay Road, Barangay Bataan, Bataan (Bataan)	60.00	3,000,000
10-117	Agricultural vacant lot	Lot 5, National Highway, Sta. Rosa, Tarlac, Calamba, Laguna	15.00	3,000,000
10-118	Residential vacant lot	Sta. Rosa Country Estate, Lot 1, Blk. 1, Laguna del Sol	15.00	11,000,000
10-119	Residential vacant lot	Sta. Rosa Country Estate, Lot 1, Blk. 1, Laguna del Sol	15.00	11,000,000
10-120	Residential vacant lot	Diamond Drive Subdivision, Barangay Carmona, Calamba, Laguna	15.00	11,000,000
10-121	Residential lot w/ improvements	Diamond Drive Subdivision, Barangay Carmona, Calamba, Laguna	15.00	14,000,000
10-122	Industrial lot w/ improvements	Lot 2-A, Light Industrial & Science Park, Cabuyao, Calamba, Laguna	7,000 sq.m. / 2,000 (est.)	25,000,000
10-123	Commercial lot w/ improvements	Lot 2-A, National Highway, Brgy. Parian, Calamba, Laguna (near Santa Rosa)	50.00	10,000,000
10-124	Commercial vacant lot	Lot 2-A, National Highway, Brgy. Parian, Calamba, Laguna (near Santa Rosa)	1,000	10,000,000
10-125	Commercial vacant lot	Lot 2-A, National Highway, Brgy. Parian, Calamba, Laguna (near Santa Rosa)	1,000	10,000,000
10-126	Commercial vacant lot	Lot 2-A, National Highway, Brgy. Parian, Calamba, Laguna (near Santa Rosa)	1,000	10,000,000
10-127	Commercial vacant lot	Lot 2-A, National Highway, Brgy. Parian, Calamba, Laguna (near Santa Rosa)	1,000	10,000,000
10-128	Industrial vacant lot	Sta. Ignacio Avenue & Sta. Ana Avenue, Sta. Ana, Cagayan de Oro	10,000	10,000,000
10-129	Agricultural vacant lot	Lot 2-A, National Highway, Brgy. Parian, Calamba, Laguna (near Santa Rosa)	10,000	10,000,000
10-130	Residential vacant lot	Sta. Rosa Country Estate, Lot 1, Blk. 1, Laguna del Sol	15.00	11,000,000
10-131	Residential vacant lot	Sta. Rosa Country Estate, Lot 1, Blk. 1, Laguna del Sol	15.00	11,000,000
10-132	Residential vacant lot	Sta. Rosa Country Estate, Lot 1, Blk. 1, Laguna del Sol	15.00	11,000,000
10-133	Residential vacant lot	Sta. Rosa Country Estate, Lot 1, Blk. 1, Laguna del Sol	15.00	11,000,000
10-134	Residential vacant lot	Sta. Rosa Country Estate, Lot 1, Blk. 1, Laguna del Sol	15.00	11,000,000
10-135	Residential vacant lot	Sta. Rosa Country Estate, Lot 1, Blk. 1, Laguna del Sol	15.00	11,000,000

Auction Day: November 20, 2010, 2010 (Sat), Mandarin Hotel, 4th Floor, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati Ave., Makati City

Down Money: A down money equivalent to 10% of minimum bid price of the property must be surrendered before the auction proper. It shall be returned immediately after the auction, in case the party is not the winning bidder. The Down Money must be in a manager's check payable to San Juan Management and Realty, Inc.

Property Related Expenses: All applicable property related expenses including association dues and real estate taxes identified and remaining as of December 31, 2010 shall be for the account of the winning bidder, as specified in the Auction Rules & Guidelines.

For more information, you may call or email the following:

MANILA	[redacted]	Email: [redacted]
CEBU	[redacted]	Email: [redacted]
DAVAO	[redacted]	Email: [redacted]
CAGAYAN DE ORO	[redacted]	Email: [redacted]
CALOOCAN	[redacted]	Email: [redacted]
ILOILO	[redacted]	Email: [redacted]

Disclaimer:

Data of properties are those made available to seller by various owners of properties and/or their representatives and/or agents. Seller has not verified the accuracy of such data and makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy thereof. Seller shall not be liable to any bidder or buyer for any inaccuracy in such data. Each bidder is encouraged to verify the accuracy of such data.

STARPROPERTIES, CO. INC. 8TH FLOOR, BUSINESS PLAZA, 107 P. SOTTO ST. CORNER 4TH AVE., BRGY. KAMUNING, QUEZON CITY, TEL. NOS. (+632) 373-9826

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region VII (Central Visayas)
Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE I

This DepED Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), through the Main MOOE intends to apply the sum of Philippine Peso Forty Million Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four and 44/100 (Php40,085,794.44) being the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Printing (Non-Common) and Packaging Services of Printing (Project and Packaging of Instructional Materials and Materials Development for Grades 5 Pantawid Pamilya Beneficiaries) and Supply and Delivery of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (Non-Textbooks) for the Grades 5 Pantawid Pamilya Beneficiaries (SY 2010-2011) of the Division of Mandaue City. Bids received in excess of the ABC per lot shall not be considered. Evaluation and award shall be per Lot/Item basis. Details are as follows:

LOT NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	TOTAL QUANTITY (copies)	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Printing and Packaging of Mts. Books of Elementary Education/Bureau of Alternative Learning Systems) a. Mathematics Lesson Guides for Grades 1 to 6 b. Basic Level Literacy Program TOTAL	350,000 50,000 400,000	Php37,977,500.00 Php2,108,294.44 Php40,085,794.44
2	Delivery of Mts to Depeds Division Offices Nationwide a. Mathematics Lesson Guides for Grades 1 to 6 b. Basic Level Literacy Program TOTAL	350,000 50,000 400,000	Php1,575,000 Php225,000.00 Php1,800,000.00

The Department of Education (DepED) now invites bids for the above mentioned project. The submission/Opening Period is thirty (30) calendar days, the submission/opening of bids is daily (Mon-Fri) during Saturdays, Sundays, and official holidays). The Activities date of Printing is January 2011, while the Activities date for Delivery is from February to March 2011.

Bidders should have completed within the last three (3) years a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, namely: a) Bidder's Eligibility Checklist; and b) Bidder's Statement.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Philippine citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders should have been in operation for a minimum of three (3) years prior to the bid submission date. An eligible bidder is a manufacturer who must be in the manufacturing of printed and bound materials, or an association of educational materials (Lots 1 & 2).

Interested bidders may obtain further information from DepED Procurement Service and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or visit the Department's website: www.deped.gov.ph.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting November 15, 2010 from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000). Bidder may also download the Bidding Documents in the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

DepED-BAC I will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on November 19, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at Dumaguit ng Kanlungan, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bid submission and opening shall be on December 2, 2010, 10:00 a.m. for Lot 1 only and December 7, 2010, 10:00 a.m. for Lot 2 only at the Department's website: www.deped.gov.ph.

Bidders should submit their bids in the form of two separate sealed envelopes, with the first envelope containing the technical proposal and the second containing the financial proposal.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before the date and time specified above. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders have the right to waive any or all bids and to reject any bid without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Bids and Awards Committee I
c/o Procurement Service
Department of Education
Region VII
Bonbon Building, Cebu North Road
Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines 6014
Tel. No.: (032) 345-7407 loc. 108
Telefax: (032) 345-7407 loc. 108

(Sgd.)
FRANCISCO M. VARELA
Undersecretary and BAC I Chairperson

South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative Inc.
Area Gaisano Ave., Lagao, General Santos City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	ABC (PhP)
1		1 unit		
2		1 unit		
3		1 unit		
4		1 unit		
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99		1 unit		
100		1 unit		

Bid documents will be available to accredited bidders starting November 15, 2010 at the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bid documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00). Bidders may also download the bid documents from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the bid documents not later than the submission of their bids.

A pre-bid conference will be held on November 19, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at Dumaguit ng Kanlungan, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bid submission and opening shall be on December 2, 2010, 10:00 a.m. for Lot 1 only and December 7, 2010, 10:00 a.m. for Lot 2 only at the Department's website: www.deped.gov.ph.

Bidders should submit their bids in the form of two separate sealed envelopes, with the first envelope containing the technical proposal and the second containing the financial proposal.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before the date and time specified above. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders have the right to waive any or all bids and to reject any bid without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Bids and Awards Committee I
c/o Procurement Service
Department of Education
Region VII
Bonbon Building, Cebu North Road
Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines 6014
Tel. No.: (032) 345-7407 loc. 108
Telefax: (032) 345-7407 loc. 108

(Sgd.)
FRANCISCO M. VARELA
Undersecretary and BAC I Chairperson

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
P.O. Box 3029 1000, EDPCPBAC-community-ad-bid@landbank.com

INVITATION TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible contractors to participate in the bidding for the following project:

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract	Non-Refundable Fee	Delivery Period
Bid No. 2010-0126 One (1) Contract of Negative Cash and Electronic Data Images	Php 4,500,000.00	Php 4,000.00	Three months each from NTP, effective date, and receipt of Purchase Order

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary, objective criteria. Details of the bidding documents are available at the address below.

All interested bidders in Eligibility Statement and Bidding, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 15, 2010 to December 3, 2010
2. Pre-bid Conference	November 22, 2010, 9:00 AM Procurement Secretariat, 3rd Floor LANDBANK Plaza 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
3. Opening of Bids	December 6, 2010 - 9:00 AM
4. Bid Evaluation	December 6, 2010
5. Post Evaluation	December 7 to 10, 2010
6. Notice of Award	December 21, 2010

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of the applicable non-refundable amount to the LBP Cashier.

The LANDBANK reserves its respective prerogative to postpone/cancel or reject/disqualify any or all bids without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation - Resolution Department for Cash Payment PHILBIDS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	Supply and Installation of ICS and Scanner Tables (TAs), per BSP Technical Specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P1,800,000.00
Delivery Schedule	Batch 1 (30 units): Not later than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP) by the Supplier of Purchase Order Batch 2 (70 units): Not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after completion of Batch 1 Batch 3 (100 units): Not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after completion of Batch 2

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from 1 March to present according to at least 50% of the ABC. The eligibility check/screening and evaluation of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid will be conducted.

All public bidders in Eligibility Statement and Bidding, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Publication of Invitation to Bid	Starting 13 November 2010 Philippine Daily Inquirer Procurement Office Room 010, Main Floor, Five-Storey Building cor. Roosevelt and 4th Streets, Diliman Quezon City Tel. No. 3538-7000 loc. 3 (Mrs. Rosario Bolos)
2. Pre-bid Conference	24 November 2010, 10:00 A.M., MRSA
3. Opening of Bids	1 December 2010, 10:00 A.M., MRSA
4. Bid Evaluation	1 December 2010, 10:00 A.M., MRSA
5. Post-qualification	2 December 2010 (one day only)
6. Notice of Award	Within seven (7) calendar days from the receipt of the post-qualified bid
7. Notice to Proceed	Within seven (7) calendar days from the receipt of the Notice of Award

The Terms of Reference (TOR) may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and BSP website (www.bsp.gov.ph). **The complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders** from the address stated above upon presentation of the PhilGEPS Supplier's Order Form and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00.

The BSP reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the bidding in failure, and to reject the contract, without incurring any liability to the affected bidders. Furthermore, the BSP reserves the right to waive any minor defects or formality and consider the proposal most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) JAIME SARIA, JR.
(Signed)

BSP-Bid No. 10-0003

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE - GOODS and SERVICES
Telefax No. (32) 253-8219 / 84-56-1418/1420

INVITATION TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu, through its GOODS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC-G), invites all interested and qualified suppliers/manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

P.R. No.	Bid/Lot No.	Particulars	Purchase Date	A.B.C. (Php)	Bid Fee
1104-0010-10	1104-0010	Various MEDICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT	For sale as per Bidding Documents starting November 15, 2010	3,000,000.00	P 1,000.00

* Bid security in favor of the BAC-G in the form of cash/manager's check or surety bond

Funding Source : Local Funds

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidders should have completed a similar project presented as the Largest Single Contract, the value of which is at least equivalent to 50% of the ABC (Approved Budget of the Contract) and completed within the last two(2) years.

All participants relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (I.R.R).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Publication of Bid Documents	November 13, 2010 - Mon
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 19, 2010 - Friday, 10:00AM
3. Submission / Opening of Bids	November 24, 2010 - Wednesday, 10:00AM
4. Bid Evaluation	December 1, 2010
5. Post-Qualification of LCB	December 2, 2010
6. Post-Qualification Determination (4 LCB)	December 7, 2010
7. Approval of Resolution & Notice of Award	December 10, 2010
8. Issuance of Purchase Order	December 13, 2010

In compliant set of **Bidding Documents** will be available to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount as indicated above in the Cash Division, Treasurer's Office at the Provincial Treasurer. The non-refundable fee shall be paid in Cash and/or Manager's/Cashier's Check issued by a reputable commercial bank payable to the Province of Cebu. Only those who have purchased the bidding documents shall be entitled to submit the Bid Documents. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders and/or authorized representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid, and reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the government.

For further information, please refer to:

Ma. Pearl P. Arjon
BAC-GS Secretariat
Cebu Provincial Government
2nd Floor Capitol Bldg., Cebu City
Tel. Nr. 253-8219

(Sgd.) MARIO C. MATTI
Chairman

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS, CREDITORS AND FRIENDS:

PURSUANT TO THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS DURING THEIR MEETINGS HELD ON DECEMBER 31, 2009, PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT:

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Rizal High Batch '90 Reunion

The Rizal High School Class of 1990 — Rizalian Batch 1990 Association Inc will be having Star 20th Year Reunion and Christmas Party on Dec. 18, Saturday, 6pm in Arma Solon's Residence, Riverside Village, Sinigas Alaminos Extension, Pasig City (brgy. Pinagbuhatan near Ever Gotesco-Sinigas Mall. For more information, you may visit our facebook account: Rizalbook.com/rizalian90 and our Yahoo! egroup account at http://egroups.yahoo.com/group/rizalian90. You can also text the following officers: Ferdie Magsino 09162126566/09331128801, Daisy Balay-Odiyar 09189264886, Riona Lemde 09225806298

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BID - Highway Pole, Cabletying Etc.

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO)
BILL - Highway, Public, Zamboanga City

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE - CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City 9600
Telephone Nos. (064) 552-0142 to 44
Telefax No. (064) 552-0141

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE - CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City 9600
Telephone Nos. (064) 552-0142 to 44
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

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For more information:
Please call Anna at Tel. No. 633-0743;
or e-mail Cybelase Properties Inc.
at cybelase_properties@yahoo.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 127 Intramuros St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPS)

Notice is hereby given that the following company/establishment have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

OBITUARIES

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

ENGR. ALEX T. CRUZ

"A Loving Husband and Doting Father"

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 11, 2010 at the age of 58.

His devoted wife **SALLY**, children and son-in-law **Dr. GALL LEXIE** and **CHEY**, granddaughter **JULIANA**, mother **AURORA**, brothers, sisters and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz-Suaco, inside Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at the Golden Haven Memorial Park, Las Piñas City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

BASILISA LIM VIOLA

(April 15, 1935 – November 11, 2010)

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 11, 2010 at the age of 67 after receiving the last sacrament.

Her memory will always be remembered by her children Rosemarie Viola Serrano and Fluvanne Noel Lim Viola; daughter-in-law Rodilby; son-in-law Henry; grandchildren Arthur Jr. Yin, Pamela, Claire S. Alfred, Katrina, Kristine and Ivana, Ramie, Dante, Angela, Abraham Jr., Prince, Rafael, Stephen, and Dillon; great-grandchildren Sophie and Mikael.

Her mortal remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 14, 2010 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 am Holy Mass at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Sampaloc, Manila.

Please contact Arlington Memorial Chapels at 710 1111 for further details.

In Loving Remembrance on the 7th Death Anniversary of

Brig. General Jose O. Sembrano

August 26, 1931 – November 13, 2003

Quietly remembered everyday, still missed in every way

Loving wife Nena
Children Jik and Hermann, Alex and Chelli, Dhet and Noel and Grace
Grandchildren: Trent, Cali, Leanna, CJ, Bianca, Muriel and Miguel

Special masses will be held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Claret), Q.C.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." -2 Corinthians 5:8

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BUSINESS

PH now in an economic 'sweet spot,' says BSP

Gov't cites high growth, low inflation

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas says the country is currently occupying an economic "sweet spot" marked by accommodative expansive and tempered rise in consumer prices.

Monetary officials believe that the present state of the economy will last even after they start to tighten rates.

"The Philippines appears to be in a sweet spot, with high output growth and low inflation. In part, this could be attributed to improved productivity owing to past reforms," the BSP said in a report.

Some of the reforms it cited were measures the government had implemented earlier to ease the impact of the global financial crisis to the country.

Annual inflation

In the second quarter, the economy grew by 7.9 percent—the fastest pace in over three decades.

On the other hand, annual inflation settled at an average of 4 percent in the first 10 months of the year.

This was nearer to the lower end of the official inflation target for the year, set at 3.0 to 5.0 percent.

Accelerated increase of a country's economy normally pushes up inflation due to rising income and growing demand for goods and services.

But in the case of the Philippines, an annual increase in investments this year has beefed up supply, thus offsetting the impact of rising demand on consumer prices.

Investment data showed that investments in fixed capital, for instance, grew by 20.3 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, rebounding from the 0.3-percent contraction registered in the same period last year.

"Capital formation helps increase the economy's productive capacity, therefore supporting the build-up of demand-induced price pressures," the BSP said.

Growth target

The government's official growth target for the year has been set between 3 and 5 percent. But the BSP said actual growth would likely exceed the target since the economy posted robust growth in the first semester.

The central bank also said a stronger peso in the year, compared with last year, would make imported goods cheaper, thus counteracting inflation.

Although the economy grew boldly in the first half of the year, the country still faces serious challenges, including a high poverty rate and low investments in education and services.

Multilateral institutions like the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank said the country should implement reforms, or enhance existing measures, to address poverty.

Poverty incidence

The country's poverty incidence—the proportion of poor Filipinos to the total population—stood at 33 percent as of end-2006.

The government has yet to release the poverty incidence figure for 2009. But according to some estimates, the figure may be the same if not higher than that of 2006.

High poverty rate, despite a growing economy, is made even worse by the poor's lack of access to education, which is deemed vital for people to climb out of poverty.

Manhattan-style project maintains strong sales

Manhattan Garden City at the Ayala Center remains to be the best-selling residential condominium project in the country.

Four years after the Ayala Group and Megaworld Corp. launched the project as joint venture partners, the first six towers are virtually sold out and towers 7 and 8 are 90% and 80% sold, respectively. Manhattan Garden City is now on its third phase, dubbed Manhattan Heights.

"We at Megaworld are astounded by the strong market response to Manhattan Garden City. Investors and homebuyers have decided that its location at the geographical heart of Metro Manila, links to two train systems, wide range of amenities and the varied lifestyle choices within Ayala Center altogether combine for an outstanding investment," noted Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu.

He continued, "Next year, with the turnover of our first two towers, we will start to see a vibrant residential component in Ayala's Center. Manhattan Garden City will be a true Live-Work-Play-Move environment."

The new phase, Manhattan Heights, offers spacious executive studio, 1- and 2-bedroom units for the Live component. Residents have the option to Work in the Ayalas Center by opening a business or launching a career there.

Play options include amenities such as swimming pool, jogging paths and game room. Manhattan Heights alone has more than 22 amenities, one and above those of the first two phases. The Ayalas Center offers even more Play options from watching basketball games and concerts at the Big Dome, to shopping at the award-winning Gateway Mall.

Manhattan Garden City at the Ayala Center is the top-selling residential condominium project in the country. Its third phase is Manhattan Heights.

Skylight, jogging paths and strong views all for coastal grandeur in Manhattan Garden City.

Work just like at Manhattan Heights, you can always cling to your heart's content at the Ayalas Center.

"Manhattan Garden City also attracts residents to thrive with ease, as the Ayalas Center is the only point in the metro where the LRT2 and MRT3 link up, as both the office and school are within easy reach.

"More than this, Filipinos in centers and businesses here already made Manhattan Garden City their choice. As they attest, it is a prime residential address worth looking into," Yu declared.

To make a potential investment at Manhattan Heights, please call Megaworld, the #1 and trusted residential condominium developer in the country, at 810-3333, visit the showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall, or check out www.themanhattangardencity.com.

Editor Cesar G. Mangaoang
PROPERTY

AYALA CENTER'S 'GREEN UNITS'

Making residents live responsibly while in the lap of luxury

MASTER: switch key cards above and owners to manage energy consumption once they leave their units.

By Tess R. Salazar

ONCE, THEY were inseparable—living waterfall and living in luxury. To be on top of the economic food chain often means the wanton disregard of the planet's limited resources. You want to be conscientious of your environment? Live in a hut in the jungle, and hug a tree when the big bad wolves disguised as land developers approach.

But now, Ayala Land has come upon a compromise that it claims would address both a green conscience and the luxurious way of life.

Ayala Land explained further that the fact that it was increasing its residential development in the Makati Central Business District already meant the residents' reduced dependence on cars—right first and three reducing them can bear fruit-pick.

The buildings themselves would be designed to save energy. Ayala Land Premier, the retail division of Ayala Land's high-end property development division, is building its flick Terraces 2 with this in mind. Here are its highlights:

1 The use of master switch key cards to house electric bills. With the master switch key card insert hotels are using this on all their rooms), there would be no need to turn on the lights or electrical appliances from the outlet. The master switch key card will allow unit owners to minimize electric consumption once they leave the unit for the day, as only the refrigerator will not be turned off with the removal of the master switch key card from its slot. The projected cost savings from this has been estimated at 30 percent compared to conventional residential buildings.

2 Motion sensors installed at the entrances. Lights and air-conditioning turn on only when the sensors' computer detect a person.

3 Passive cooling ventilation on the lower floors. Conventional residential towers are designed with limited window openings. Aside for two (2) feature won't get in the way of the building's window fixtures and sliding doors. Opening up the units from the 20th to the 35th floors reduces the need for owners to turn on the air-conditioning. Furthermore, bathrooms have been designed for optimum airflow at both ends.

4 The water closets use the dual flush technology. Owners can use the low-water flow flush whenever appropriate.

5 With the building's large windows, natural light is maximized at every unit.

6 Park Terraces 2 will be integrated to the planned 10-hectare Park Triangle redevelopment of the Ayala Center area's aimed to become a pedestrian-friendly center for commerce and living. The planned additional walkways, interconnected underground parking, four features of parks and green spaces (such as the courtyard's landscaped Delta Peninsula) right beside Park Terraces tower 1) and additional retail areas are expected to accentuate or expand to go out more and exercise, mobility and commune with others—altogether reducing the "sick building syndrome" and minimizing hospitalization costs among unit dwellers and owners.

Park Terraces 2, scheduled for turnover in 2014, will bring owners even closer to a lifestyle that's beneficial for both humans and the planet, according to Bobby Ty, Ayala Land senior vice president and head of the residential business group, and Luis Meyer, project development manager for ALCP residential buildings.

That so, Park Terraces 2 has consistently lured in the Triple A residential market, according to them. Initially selling at an average rate of P170,000 per sqm for the first of its planned three-tower project, Park Terraces 2 now fetches an average P180,000 per sq m. The first tower is already 90 percent sold.

The Point Tower, the second development within Park Terraces, highlights the exclusivity of each unit, and, most units according to sales, as they all enjoy breezes units beginning from the 5th to the 33rd floor will have 18 units per floor; two-bedroom units from the 34th to the 40th will have six units per floor. The three-bedroom will have four units per floor while the penthouse units will have two units.

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Planned urban dev't may foster healthy living conditions for metro residents

By Amy Remo

SINGAPORE—EXCAVATE open, outdoor cities in Asia, including Metro Manila, have all these "fantastic" master plans to begin with.

These seemingly grandiose plans then had room for energy-efficient communities that featured office and residential buildings, shopping centers and parks in a single operating area, thus fostering traffic-less and transport-friendly roads.

But fortunately today, Metro Manila's cities have been developed in varying landscapes. So many thoroughfares are not only congested with half-filled buildings, private vehicles crawling two lanes at a time, but have also (almost literally) become a breeding ground for respiratory and cardiovascular diseases with the increasing gravity of air pollution in these areas.

Even the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) that was supposed to ease Manila's middle class misery from taking their cars in and to work, had been reported to make it more affordable for the masses—thus defeating the project's original purpose in the first place.

So what happened?

Lennox Sycip Jr., principal planning and coordination specialist at the Asian Development Bank, candidly noted that the city governments, in Metro Manila for instance, "screwed up" in implementing these master plans.

"Most cities and urban planners are actually very good, but the problem is that cities are run by mayors, mayors are politicians, they are not city managers," Tomiura said in an interview with the bureau.

HOUSING critical infrastructure such as offices, residences and shopping centers in a single area contributes to energy efficiency.

Tomiura explained that the lack of professional city managers to oversee the implementation of these master plans had hampered the possible success of these long-term visions, as these are constantly being mired to what the economic land administration thinks the city needs. This also means that such projects begun and ended with whatever's at the helm in a given time.

Ideal communities

According to Tomiura, an ideal model of having a densely-built, yet energy-efficient areas would be similar to those being done in Dresden, which is now trying to develop low carbon cities.

For one, urban planners need to design them the ground up. This entailed looking at first, what the possible sources for carbon emissions will be and from there, design a city in which you can cut these emissions, say in transportation, energy usage and energy generation, among others.

Then there's a need to pay attention to the physical details of the buildings—you need to have them with green design, in such a way that you use as much sunlight as you can use for lighting, and even those lighting buildings are also those that use air circulation as much as possible, so you don't have to air-condition them as much.

Every space should also be a potential energy saver, such as rooftops. Greening your roofs may include green spaces or vegetation that may not only be esthetically pleasing, but may also serve as insulation for the building.

Energy-generating facilities such as solar panels and windmills designed for urban areas can also be placed on rooftops to provide electricity enough to power the basic energy requirements of a building.

These areas should also be designed in a way that would allow people to walk to their offices, grocery stores, shopping centers and back to their apartments and homes, thus making activities less energy-intensive, Tomiura added.

"Of course you can go outside your area but for the most part, it's better to have concentrations like that. And designing such landscapes should also include having smart policies on land use, transport planning, on use of water, and wastewater treatment," he further explained.

Smart, modern cityscape

Although still plausible and possible, Tomiura admitted that it may be difficult to redesign the current landscapes in areas that have long been developed as it may take as long as 20 years to do so.

The good news, however, is that a number of the newly developed areas in Metro Manila are geared toward energy efficiency and intelligent urban planning. These included the Bonifacio Global City, the newly reclaimed area in SM Mall of Asia, Bucksteff and Bonifacio Global City.

"The design of the Global City is very close to [the Dresden model] energy for the transportation aspect, but mainly because transportation is cultural shift for us Asians," Tomiura added.

For the already developed areas, Tomiura said a lending facility is available from the ADB, under the Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA). Lending in this case, he added, can be sovereign or subsovereign, depending on the nature and ease of return for the proposed projects.

These loans, which will be sourced from the Manila-based banks' ordinary capital resources, may be obtained directly by a local government or municipality or may be sourced through the national government.

During the previous administration, the Philippine government had already expressed its intention to pursue an urban development project that would relocate informal settlers (squatters) in Metro Manila and rearrange the metropolis' landscape permanently.

While deemed as ambitious, the planned urban development, if pushed through, may finally foster more conducive and healthy living conditions for residents in Metro Manila.

DOMINICIO Global City may be one of the few cities in the country that came closest to building that ideal energy efficient community.

Setting your sights higher when choosing the perfect second home

HIGHLANDS PRIME Inc. and Bello Corp. offer homes and amenities at Tagaytay Highlands which encourage family interaction and enjoyment in a cool and unpolluted atmosphere.

Tagaytay Highlands may be top of mind when choosing the perfect weekend hideaway, but it is also rapidly becoming a thriving community with a network of attractive, themed residential enclaves set amid the amazing views of the Taal Lake and the cool, unpolluted atmosphere of Tagaytay's lush mountains.

With exciting activities, numerous conveniences and Asia's most exciting golf courses, Tagaytay Highlands is truly an international attraction in par with the world's most famed resort and leisure destinations. Located at the highest point of elevation in Tagaytay City, it offers residents a luxury that is not as readily enjoyed by people living in the metro.

With three residential enclaves, The Highlands, The Ridgelands and The Crown Lands, Tagaytay Highlands offers an array of lots and condo unit choices for

CABLE car with The Highlands communities as backdrop

optimal farm lots for residents keen on organic farming. Thatching communities at The Crownlands are Mediterranean, The Parks at Sanctuary Hills, The Veranda at Sonnet on Hills, Fairfield and Woodhill.

Golf, going green and more

The first to its market, Tagaytay Highlands offers golfers its exclusive facilities and its world-class homes and facilities. It offers exclusive membership to four clubs—the Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club, the Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club, The Country Club at Tagaytay Highlands, and The Spa and Lodge at Tagaytay Highlands. The Country Club offers recreational activities for the compelling crowd, such as swimming, badminton, basketball, tennis, BMW, aerobics, and nature trekking while The Spa and Lodge offers the finest in relaxation and rejuvenation treatments.

The Highlands is also very conducive for biking, walking and jogging. Residents can even enjoy horseback rides, cable car rides, and spending time at an animal farm. These services are all within a few minutes of each other. With two challenging golf courses, over 20 restaurants, and a wide array of sports and recreational facilities—golf aficionados' interests is satisfied at Tagaytay Highlands.

Willy Ocker, vice chair of Bello Corp, and HPI adds, "What we have successfully done is to integrate home-style living with resort amenities. Tagaytay Highlands is a living and recreational area that provides activities that are family centered. We also aim to create an environment that encourages one to enjoy fitness and wellness. Many homeowners wake up before sunrise to enjoy a nice jog or walk around the property."

With a large part of the value proposition geared toward caring for the environment, much research has gone into proper landscaping at Tagaytay Highlands. After all, it is the natural beauty of the place that has enamored over 5,500 members.

Geo Estate plans their projects according to buyers' wants

Most property developers of luxury condominiums place themselves by being inconsiderate of their tenants. Geo Estate Development Corp., (Geo Estate) manager of The Beacon in Makati, claims that to their projects the buyers desire this design.

Geo Estate vice-president and Geo Estate chairman Florencio Locsin III claims that they do not base the design with the architect. "We let the architect room for creativity, we do not tell the architect to do something completely," he says. "Instead we only mention our clients people in the design since they are supposed to know what the buyers want."

In fact, The Beacon was positioned as a residential resort based on the desires of their buyers. "According to feedback from the Pasay Tower we ran out of 1 bedroom," shared Locsin III.

The Beacon is the maiden project of Geo Estate which was founded by Locsin III and William Hallgren, another seasoned real estate maven, located at the center of bustling Makati. It boasts of quality features such as clean stylish lines, ingeniously-designed units and top-drawer amenities while priced about 20 percent lower than other high-end condominiums.

His business ethic emanates simply compensable for the only experience spaces typical of high-rise residences. The Beacon's developers are a 40 square meter apartment that sets patterns for the price in exacts, wealth bulls would appreciate the 360-degree jogging trail of the 10-acre Bonifacio Park that is fully equipped for fitness, strength training and aerobic exercises. There is also a sprawling garden where residents can do fun-time simply base on the beauty of nature to achieve the healthier living point. A few in-house spa areas and elevators can make the amenities of more luxurious and by professional maintenance.

Meanwhile the Forum Tower features a rooftop that has a stunning view of the Makati, Manila Bay and Laguna areas. It's practically having an unobstructed view as well as state-of-the-art technical facilities and services with family and invited friends. It's time for us to enjoy the scenery from above at the Atrium Tower on the Sky Lounge.

Its studio unit has a living area of 21 square meters. Some have 30 or 40 square meters. Residents can be contained to form a bigger unit. There are also 28 sq.m. two-bedroom units. While the unit is simply paneled with urban condo units, this is where the similarity ends.

For one, this unit is approach with higher ceilings. The usual ceiling height of other condominiums is 2.6 meters. The Beacon rises at least 3.15 meters. High ceilings provide better ventilation as it allows air to circulate more freely. It also creates a bigger, airier space.

Their windows also are also relatively bigger. Nelly Ming Wong, the company's vice-president for product development group, explained that huge windows allow more natural light which in turn helps conserve electric consumption.

The Beacon was also designed for minimum upkeep. This environment is all about clean lines and minimalism.

These features are all part of the genuine objectives in offer value for money for investments in relation to target buyers. Your goal is to adapt to the middle income market a product that is worthy of the upper income," Locsin III explains.

This claims from the company's iconic remains a complex that placed it the market without planning to be one of the real estate titans. Such bolded aspiration eliminates the prospective investors properties.

"We are not concerned by huge numbers alone. We are only happy to develop to business communities if it is making giving our buyers quality projects at top prices," he enthuses.

It is no wonder that the Locsins' Tower units were sold out in less than a year after selling. This did not anticipate a Phase 2 and even this last. So as not to carry up Tower 2, cope up with the pace made in the market and to accommodate persons of the world, Tower 2 is already booked," he shared.

Buoyed by the warm reception of The Beacon, plans are now underway to explore other housing projects such as a subdivision offering house and lot packages and other high-end residential projects within the metropolis.

Locsin III considers that the industry will remain stable, stating the notion that the upward trend is merely flashing. He says demand that may still continue to target the middle income buyers. "The middle market is driven by real needs and affordability and not at a whim mode of the growth and recovering from," he said.

Paquiao vs Margarito live at Hotel H2O

HOTEL H2O, the first and only entertainment hotel in the country, celebrates 99 spicy glory by showing the history-making duel live at the hotel's Lush function room tomorrow at 9 a.m. onward.

The No. 1 Pound for Pound King Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao will be fighting his tallest boxing opponent ever Antonio Margarito of Mexico in the ring with his dazzling and intriguing lights of the past. They will clash at the Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas for the vacant WBC super welterweight title.

Watch the electrifying fight as it unfolds round by round on huge high-definition LCD projector screens and state-of-the-art sound systems while your kids get enthralled over basketball on animals at Lush function rooms' entertainment equipment which features different levels of ring toys, shades, Spanish song fabrics, butterfly fairies and other awesome sea fishes.

For only P800, the live broadcast showing will come with a sumptuous buffet lunch. The menu includes mouthwatering boodboat Asian favorites such as Shabu-shabu every day—a Singaporean appetizer of fried flood-based palatable that is cooked over a fire grill, Longanisa, Char Kwe Pork—Chinese pork meal, Ginger Beef, Lechon Pork Fillet, Chow Fun Fry—Singaporean flat rice noodles with shrimp and bloody cockles also included are Chinese hap shrimp (sausage), eggs, bean sprouts, and chives in a mix of soy sauce, fragrant rice, garlic rice, Egg Roll, special beef with tomo pasta filling, delicious hot cheese and appetizers, as well as Hot Chocolate and coffee.

For inquiries, please call 556 8628 Mr. Lovely or 0917 597 4665. Hotel H2O is situated inside Manila Ocean Park, Luneta, Manila.

The greenest, most energy-efficient buildings in Asean

THE ASEAN Energy Awards, started in 2000, is Southeast Asia's prestigious annual awards program that recognizes and awards work for excellence, ensuring practicality and dedication in a cause in the field of energy conservation. Competing entries are prequalified by their National Committee of Energy in each country.

Green Architects

Amando de Jesus

Awardees are chosen through a competition by a board of judges, made up of one representative from each member country of Asean, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Categories

There are four categories in the competition namely: New and existing building (retrofitted building), Tropical building, and Special category.

Definition of categories

- New and Existing Buildings

Open Category Buildings must not be more than five years old.

- Tropical Buildings

Open category: air-conditioning of less than 50 percent of total gross floor area; emphasis on effective use of passive design; not less than gross floor area of 1000 square meters excluding carpark; exclude religious buildings; building must not be more than 15 years old.

- Retrofitted Buildings

This category refers to buildings wherein major changes and improvements have been made(and) to improve energy efficiency; the age of the building must be more than 5 years.

- Special consideration

This category refers to special projects that usually apply novel or developing/innovative technologies (including R&D projects) applied to reduce energy consumption in buildings. The aim is to promote the development of innovative energy efficiency technologies and solutions.

Building types qualified for the competition

Offices, schools, libraries, retail/shopping malls, hotels and hospitals have been selected as building types due to their predictable basis of operation.

Fuji Xerox, Singapore, (Winner, Retrofitted Category)

Prequalification requirements

Candidates should pass the prequalification criteria that include the minimum energy-efficiency standards set and established by the Asean regional board of judges. The energy audit conducted by the Department of Energy (DOE), as an asset to the applicant for joining the competition, is a basic requirement to record energy efficiency and conservation measures employed, and to determine their effectiveness.

Purposes of competition

The competition aims to provide international prominence and recognition to outstanding companies and individuals that consistently apply the concepts, systems and technologies of energy efficiency and conservation. This is a recognition program for energy-efficient buildings to become showcases for others to replicate and promote energy management programs in the building sector.

2010 Winners

Singapore's Fuji Xerox Tower—Retrofitted Building Category—clinched numerous walkways, landscaping, solar photovoltaic panels installed on rooftops have earned for the building the first commercial development with the largest and most extensive use of solar technology in Singapore. Minimum energy-efficiency of more than 20 percent is recorded compared to a standard commercial office building.

Singapore's Fuji Xerox Towers—Retrofitted Building Category—has implemented many energy conservation initiatives such as upgrading their chiller plant, installing ultrasonic and motion sensors over the past few years. This has achieved 23-percent reduction in electricity consumption from 2007 to 2008.

To prequalify for the 2010 ASEAN Energy Awards, please call up Marlon Domingo of the Department of Energy at 840-2293.

(For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadedejesus@gmail.com.)

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MAYON INDUSTRIAL CORP.

A lifestyle of health, wellness at The Exchange Regency

WITH ITS EXCITEMENT for comprehensive fitness and wellness amenities, The Exchange Regency rises up as the perfect cosmopolitan residential venue for today's busy condominium unit owners.

AS TODAY'S urban residential developers race to outdo each other by coming up with resident condominium spaces that offer almost every imaginable amenity feature, The Exchange Regency, Nakhaland Ventures Inc.'s fast-rising lifestyle tower, leads the way in resort-like luxury living spaces by providing pampering amenities that nurture its dwellers' health and well-being.

With modern and luxurious accessories being some of the urban condos' hottest trends today's high-rise condominium The Exchange Regency—aside from being a sophisticated condominium home that is strategically located in one of the metro's prestigious commercial locations—boasts of the combination of high-rise living with the inclusion of luxury condo health and wellness features that are well within reach.

Recognizing that leisure and relaxation are key aspects of a well-balanced lifestyle, the array of luxury fitness and wellness amenities—an infinity pool, a kiddie pool, jacuzzi, shower rooms with sauna, health walk/jogging path, meditation area and a fitness gym—are conjured as a stress-free sanctuary that help dictate anxiety evaporate after a long day at work.

Refreshing retreat

Just a few steps from one's condominium unit, the fitness and wellness amenities create an refreshing retreat for busy people in need of daily rejuvenation.

The fitness gym, which is set to be offered complete with the latest state-of-the-art fitness equipment and with exercising full-scale health-oriented programs, is formed to provide fitness fanatics with a holistic and balanced approach to total physical well-being. Because of its 24-hour accessibility and flexible availability, even tenants with hectic lifestyles can easily make use of this facility without shortcut.

After making good use of its very accessible location on the third floor of The Exchange Regency are the two essential aquatic oases, the adult infinity pool and kiddie pool. Both ostentatiously relaxing, flaunt the endless heart of water but activities, the pools offer residents the grand luxury of enjoying a healthy resort-like lifestyle in the comfort of their own condominium homes.

For tenants with little ones, the kiddie pool proves quality bonding time and spontaneous recreation while for adult residents, the infinity pool provides the perfect venue for daily relaxation, even a hassle-free party place for gathering friends and loved ones.

The health walk and meditation area, meanwhile, promote the benefits of walking, jogging and other physically revitalizing routine exercises. Minus the fumes and the noise of a crowded city street, these places let occupants revel in the natural sounds and sights that are not usually found and enjoyed in most crowded urban environments. Here, health-conscious residents are accorded with utmost privacy as they thrive to achieve fitness, positive well-being and inner peace.

Family-oriented amenities

Within the succulent length of the same floor of the 42-storey tower is a wide range of family-oriented amenities, including a function room, cabanas and a host of other 'all-in-one' leisure facilities.

The functionally incorporating these comprehensive facilities, The Exchange Regency rises up as the perfect cosmopolitan residential tower that is not only convenient but ensures the overall well-being of its future occupants.

Located on a rare three-car per location, The Exchange Regency will be offering 703 affordably priced one-bedroom and two-bedroom flat units as well as one-, two- or three-bedroom loft-type units. All the units are modular and can be combined, depending on the buyer's needs. These are available to buyers for their homes or as an investment for daily, weekly or monthly rental through its professional condotel services.

To get a glimpse of the hotel luxury living that The Exchange Regency has to offer, visit the Nakhaland Ventures showroom and office located on Julia Vargas Avenue, between San Miguel Avenue and Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

THE EXCHANGE Regency's infinity pool offers a tranquil spot for relaxation and daily rejuvenation.

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ROADTALK Saturday

LIFE DEFINED BY THE ROADS WE TAKE

Text and photos by Alvin Uy

IT'S WORRY-FREE Christmas season and with a number of long weekends in the horizon, we plan our land-based weekend getaways with much anticipation. There is one vehicle that comes quickly into mind for long-distance-land-bonding: who-loves-to-travel on the open roads and use their vehicle as a daily commuter for the inland last mile.

The Hyundai Starex van came into the local automotive scene in the late 2000s when the first generation diesel vans were being brought in en masse.

By 2007, with the official launch of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI), the country's distributor for Hyundai vehicles in PH, now the van quickly becoming its flagship model. After three years, the Starex CRDi model came with a new engine, going to first generation CRDi (Common Rail Direct Injection) diesel engine in 2010.

After another three years, HARI unveiled its third generation model called Grand Starex equipped with a more enhanced CRDi engine and a Variable Geometry Turbocharger (VGT). The van underwent several awards including Pinoy Autoguru Car of the Year - Philippines, Editor's Pick in Full Size People Carrier during the 4th CI Awards, the Philippine Army Press People's Choice award in the Large Van category, and the Full Size People Carrier of the Year during the 5th and 6th CI Magazine awards.

Traveling in style

When we say "Vans," it usually means the vehicle is a special model long wheelbase sedan. Hyundai chose the name Grand Starex Limousine to imply to sophisticated a limousine with a high ceiling, huddle top roof and a luxurious as well as spacious interior. More than just a full-sized van, the Grand Starex Limo is fitted with 17-inch chrome wheels and the pull down blinds, hiding the identity of its passengers with an air of celebrity anyone.

Its interior features premium leathered seats and its main highlight is its 21" flatscreen LCD TV featuring a DVD Dolby Digital 5.1 entertainment system with a 6.5" LCD touch screen monitor on the dash board unit complete with a navigation system and USB and memory card slots. Complementing the video system is a 6-speaker stereo giving this limo van a surround sound theater effect, complete with mood LED lights.

The powerplant of the Grand Starex Limo is a 2.5L CRDi VGT engine type, with a maximum output of 170ps at 3800 rpm while giving a peak torque of 40kg-m at 2000-2500rpm range. Its tranny is of 6-mode 5-speed automatic. Its brave stopping power, front and rear disc brakes are used.

Despite that this special model gives the owner a kind of vehicle in that suits its luxury blinds and on-board entertainment package, it is actually a good van for the family as well. Its roomy interior and large screen monitor allows the kids to stay put in their seats with enough room to sit in and its booming sound while mom can pick up her favorite hunk with a personal fight on, even with the dialect up.

If daddy is too tired to drive, the 14-seater has enough room for relative and even its seats for the tummy. This maker would cool getaways with the kids too crowded and loses comfortable.

By Jason K. Ang

Since when did small cars have to be so big? Barging the latest-generation City beside our early 1990s Mitsubishi Galant GTI-16V, we find that the two are nearly matching in length and width. It's a bit of a shock, similar to showing up for a high school reunion and finding formerly skinny guys now worthy of going up against Mike Tyson – including ourselves. Mental image no longer matches with reality.

Alas, it's an unwelcome rule of automotive design and marketing that each new generation must be larger and heavier than the previous one. Too sensible, it seems to be the most obnoxious culprits: BMW's Mini Cooper (from the original 1960s model), and Honda's first- and second-generation versus the first. The original Mini was a wonder of packaging and compact mechanical design; BMW's take on it has the same ugly-cutely styling cues, but it's preposterous by comparison. As for the Jazz, the first generation was for all intents and purposes a compact minivan, with its folding seats able to transform the interior into one big loading space. It was frugal, agile, and easy to park. The new version is just as versatile, but it's as long as a Civic from two generations ago. There remains for the Jazz's increase in size: the new car was designed from the beginning to cater to the American market, and the Civic itself has grown larger. It is a subcompact built to forget.

But the City is one rare case where larger is not necessarily a bad thing. Call it automotive prejudice, but we expect hatchbacks to be diminutive and chunky, and sedans to be large and dignified. Big hatchbacks like the BMW 5 Series GT? Not a pretty sight. Honda learned its lesson after the second-generation City hit the streets looking like a refugee from a Star Trek set. Gods loved it, but most car buyers thought twice, then bought a Vios.

The new City has no such problems. The styling is slick, handsome, and full of character. It's our favorite among the current small-sedan set. There's none of the awkward-duckling-turns-into-swan-at-60-kph-after-the-decade-ends, drift-up-quickly, etc. Shifting up manually on the five-speed automatic is possible, thanks to a paddle shifter system. During that, we achieved upwards of 11 km/liter for our entire driving. You can trigger-up or downshift anytime, and there's a quiet and full manual mode.

The City's MacPherson strut front, torsion beam rear suspension does a good job of isolating the cabin from badly torn-up roads (You belong in the ninth circle, Shaw in Pasay!) while providing pleasingly firm handling. The skinny 175/65R14 tires provide enough traction, certainly, but the chassis fundamentals are sound. There's virtually no steering feedback from the electric power-steering system, but the steering movements feels more natural than the setoff sense of the first-gen City.

Drive the City with an enthusiast bent and it responds in kind. The engine revs eagerly, the gear-stacked 5MT unit providing a second ratio. There's heavy understeer, but the suspension clearly planned to hard-cornering. Honda hasn't forgotten how to build a proper driver's car.

We are reminded of another trademark City feature when we open the trunk lid. The trunk is wide and very deep, able to swallow luggage and boxes with aplomb. Tuhaser is worthy of a Mercedes S-Class, at more than 500 liters. This is thanks to the compact rear suspension and relocated fuel tank. (The tank is under the driver's chair, near the center of the car.) Alas, the rear seats can no longer be folded to increase luggage space. As a consolation, they are more comfortable than the previous City's.

Aero look brakes, with ABS and brake assist, are standard across the City lineup. The higher 1.3-liter models and the 1.5 all have dual airbags. Honda touts the longer maintenance cycle of the City, with less frequent oil changes and dealer checkups, as a way of reducing ownership cost; 193.44 km is preventive maintenance cost, across-the-board comparison. One of the few features of the City is that it is assembled in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Is a growth necessarily a bad thing? Yes, if we're talking about round men's bust guts. Not so if the end product is as well thought out and refined as the third-generation City. We said this about the Civic before, and now it seems the City is qualified, too. For any practical purpose, this is all the sedan that anyone really needs. Anything more is excess.

Jason K. Ang / jason@motorcoven.com

LITTLE BIG CAR

Honda City justifies its upsized dimensions

Know the real state of your car battery

LIKE MANY parts on cars that are tucked safely beneath the hood and out of sight, car batteries are often forgotten until the car fails to start. The battery is always the first suspect when a motor will not turn over after the ignition switch is turned to the start position.

"Normally, once you have your battery checked, the mechanic will ask you when you bought it. Also, he would know if its warranty is about to expire or not," explains Alexander Rho, point of manager of Cabuyao Autolite Inc. in Prime Public Cabuyao City, referring to the car and battery business for the past 41 years. "This will give him an idea of the battery's age," counts another automotive battery expert. "All he has to say is you have to buy a new one, not knowing the real condition of your battery and if it can still last longer."

Now, with just a month of a hiatus, you and the battery technician can have all the answers.

"We now have a line of re-bred digital and lead-battery tester that can give precisely your battery's state of health, state of charge and reserved capacity all in one minute, coupled by a charger that will make sure it is 100 percent charged as well," avers Rho while demonstrating the high-tech equipment that could save, not only individual motorists, but the entire automotive industry millions of pesos a year by precisely stating in pertinent values info the battery or how long will it last before it is replaced.

"Our habit is we only replace the battery when it is dead," says Rho. "This is a big hassle because it can ruin your plan to go on a fun trip if the battery crashed right out in the middle of nowhere. With the new BT 967 battery tester, you will know if your battery is A-ok before leaving the house."

Called the GEC Intelligent Switching Power Battery Charger/Maintainer, this unique Taiwanese innovation is now available locally at the Cabuyao Standards, its sole distributor. It can charge eight types of batteries, including 12v automotive and motorcycle batteries (SLI/YBEA, GEL/AM, CAL/CAL and AGM/AGM). Its charger's unique feature, which is first in the Philippines, is that it performs a microchip-controlled 5-stage charging, thus making sure that your battery is not overcharged as authenticated by its digital printout. What's more, its reverse-pulse switches to "boot mode" that automatically charges and maintains the battery simultaneously as, even if you forgot to disconnect it from the charger for a year, it won't be damaged at all.

Nissan offers biggest sale for 2010

CHRISTMAS COMES early for Filipino motorists at Nissan Motor Philippines (NMPC) boss the "Great Nissan Car-O-Sale" featuring big discounts, rebable trade-in offers and other exciting deals at the Pan Pacific Open Field in Taguig City from Nov. 12 to 14.

For three days only, customers will get a chance to avail an attractive package of savings, plus fun and memorable music for the whole family. All walk-in customers will get an instant P15,000 discount, while an additional P5,000 discount will be awarded to all current Nissan vehicle owners. What's more, customers can also avail of up to P50,000 discount when they trade-in their current NMPC vehicle for any brand new NMPC model. Customers just have to present the official receipt and certificate of registration as proof of ownership to avail of these sizeable discounts.

Proving that NMPC offers not only excellent products but quality service as well, the event will also feature a "Quick Service" area, where customers can avail of the free 28-point check-up and diagnostic services, plus discounts on parts and labor. Free one liter of oil from Total Philippines Corporation awaits those who will have oil change during the course of the three-day event.

Exciting raffle prizes will be up for grabs, including an iPad for those who will test drive the NMPC models featured at the event, and iPod Shuffle for all walk-in customers.

In addition, financing transactions will be made more convenient with the presence of the country's top banks, which will provide on-site approval of financing schemes to fit the customers' budgets. To ensure all elements of vehicle ownership will be covered, the event will also be supported by Standard Insurance Co., the Philippines' leading motor car insurance company, which will offer competitive insurance premiums to customers at the event.

"The Car-O-Sale forms part of our 50th year celebration in the Philippines, and serves as an early Christmas treat from NMPC to our customers," NMPC president and CEO Allen Chen said. "This is to show that at NMPC, we provide not only fun-to-drive vehicles, but also a fun buying experience for everyone. The three-day event will literally be a customer's one-stop shop, as we'll provide a complete package – new car purchases, trade-in options, after-sales service, financing and insurance."

Catch the "Great Nissan Car-O-Sale" from Nov. 12 to 14. For more information, visit www.nissan.com.ph, or inquire at any of the Nissan dealerships nationwide.

Prestone advocates new 'habit' to ensure road safety

OVER THE last two years, the number of road accidents in the country has been steadily rising. This is one of the findings of a report released by MMDA's Metro Manila Accident Reporting and Analysis System (MMARAS), which noted that: 64,747 road accidents have been taken cognizance in 2009, with 2,004 persons killed and 14,343 injured.

From January to March this year, the MMDA has also compiled a total of 9,282 road accidents already with 19 drivers, 4 passengers and 22 pedestrians said to have died from these accidents. Such high number of road accidents that since prompted a leading brand of brake fluid to underscore serious steps to help reduce road accidents through their advocacy campaign.

"Unfortunately, its not just the aggressive driving style or lack of discipline among our drivers today that contributes to this rising number of road accidents," begins Tirso de Veyra, marketing director of Prestone. "Improper maintenance of one's car, especially the brake system, could also be another factor."

De Veyra shares that Prestone has recently partnered with several service centers nationwide to test the brake fluid (percentage of vehicles taking much time to stop/slow down) of vehicles taking much time – neighbors to the motor. Based on initial test of 8,000 vehicles nationwide, the company found that 54% of cars have failed the test. The test further showed that most motorists were not aware that old or contaminated brake fluid should be replaced after the car's warranty period.

A number of service centers who took part in Prestone's brake fluid testing campaign also noted that only a few car owners gave the right attention to the proper maintenance of their brake system.

Guided by these findings, Prestone decided to undertake a campaign to make more Filipino motorists aware of the importance of road safety by ensuring that one's vehicle is in tip-top condition while on the road.

"A common practice is to just top up the master cylinder to maximum level. But this is not enough for cars two years and older. Majority are unaware that over time, brake fluid deteriorates as it absorbs moisture that causes major problems in the car's brake system," says Dan Santiago, Prestone brand manager.

When this happens, a number of problems can take place, like corrosion of metal parts such as valves and pistons as well as vapor lock, which could cause the brake pedal to feel spongy. This, in turn, can delay braking action and cause accidents that could either wise be avoided.

"Most car owners who don't know that they should regularly flush and fill their brake fluid at least once a year, especially for vehicles two years and older," adds Dan. "We highly recommended using only a trusted and proven brand of brake fluid like Prestone to guarantee its effectiveness."

That's why Prestone encourages vehicle owners to follow the right process of brake system maintenance like flush and fill, which would contribute to a decrease in mechanical problems such as brake failure. By doing the "Flush and Fill Habit", Prestone is hoping for more "road safe" vehicles which can, in turn, bring down number of road accidents in the country.

The company is taking the lead in a road safety campaign that begins today, Nov. 13, by conducting free brake fluid testing in at least 100 vehicles in the parking lot of Mall of Asia (near the Blue Theatre). Prestone will distribute existing brake fluid testing in its service centers nationwide while also making more Filipino motorists realize the importance of proper brake system maintenance.

"We are really committed in our more-than-50-year history in the road safety advocacy and display more brake fluid testers nationwide at service centers for free brake fluid testing," adds de Veyra.

De Veyra adds that it is also important for car owners to ensure that their rides not only look good outside, but also inside and under the hood. "While having a shiny coat of paint, clean leather seats and a nice sound system adds to 'pogi' points, motorists shouldn't see someone when it comes to purchasing a good brake system and other critical parts that matter for a safe, reliable ride, and not only items not seen by passengers," she explains.

After all, a driver's safety depends heavily on a good brake system, so it is only but proper for motorists to invest in a trusted brake fluid brand like Prestone, "para nasa malayo kung hanap" (so you're always in good hands).

'Hypermiling' tips from Suzuki Alto

WITH gas prices taking us on a roller-coaster ride from week to week, getting the most miles from every drop of fuel has become a skill that drivers want to master. In 2006, the word "hypermiling" was selected as the best new word of the year by the New Oxford American Dictionary, which defines it as "the attempt to maximize gas mileage by making fuel-conserving adjustments to one's vehicle and one's driving techniques."

Although hypermiling techniques are not recommended for street driving, the website www.geobobby.com lists the following fuel saving tips.

Avoid high speeds. Since aerodynamic drag increases with speed, driving at 88kph (or within the speed limit) can help reduce fuel consumption.

Do not accelerate or brake hard. Smooth driving that comes from paying attention to the road and anticipating traffic, and avoiding sudden acceleration or hard braking can help conserve fuel.

Keep tires properly inflated. Make sure to follow the recommended tire pressure. To know your vehicle's correct tire pressure, always check the sticker on the driver's door. One tire under-inflated by 2psi can result in a 1% increase in fuel consumption, depending on the load condition of the vehicle.

Service vehicle regularly. Observe the regular preventive maintenance to ensure clean air filters, new spark plugs and proper fluid levels. Make sure to bring in your Suzuki Alto to an accredited Suzuki dealership/service center for the regular service check every 5,000km of use.

Avoid heavy loads. Remove excess luggage and other items that you don't need as the added weight can take a toll on your fuel efficiency.

Purchase a fuel-efficient vehicle. Of course, choosing the right car is probably the single most important decision that you can take to ensure good fuel economy. The Suzuki Alto is a proven gas driver, having excelled an impressive 34-kilometers per liter in the Department of Energy's Fuel Economy Run in 2006.

Beyond fuel economy

One of the most popular compact cars worldwide, the Suzuki Alto is recognized for its fuel efficiency, stability and affordability. Its compact dimensions make the Suzuki Alto an extremely nimble and agile vehicle, with its small 4.0m turning radius giving it a definite advantage in tight parking spaces. Safety features are not compromised, with 2 point ELR seatbelts, third brake light, and side impact beams. With thoughtful amenities that include an in-dash CD MP3 system, power door locks, and rear keyed bumpers.

Possibly the most affordable Japanese brand sub-compact in the Philippine car market, the Suzuki Alto Deluxe and Standard come in a quartet of vibrant colors, dazzling red, and silky silver metallic colors. The Suzuki Alto Deluxe is priced at P428,000 and the Suzuki Alto Standard is priced at P360,000.

One of the most popular compact cars worldwide, the Suzuki Alto is recognized for its fuel efficiency, stability and affordability

Shell brings back Ferrari collectibles

CAR IMPERSONATE, toy collectors and kids alike will experience more fun, play and excitement as Pilipinas Shell unveils the third and most recent incarnation of Ferrari model cars that comes with a twist - literally.

The new collection of model cars which are 1:70th of their real counterparts have a unique touch: steering memory technology which allows users to program up to 11 directional commands using a directional pad found underneath each car. Simply input your directional commands - left, right, forward - pull back your Ferrari, release it and watch it belt across the course yourself.

Here are the six programmable cars in collect:

Ferrari 430 Scuderia

Lightweight, simple and striking with a distinctive engine and exhaust sound, this car is uncompromising by sports in appeal. This comes as no surprise as seven-time Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher was greatly involved in its development.

Ferrari 599 GTB Fiorano

The benchmark for super cars, the Ferrari 599 GTB Fiorano is the most powerful, innovative and technologically advanced 12-cylinder from mid-range engine two-seater that rolled out of Maranello.

The Ferrari FXX Evoluzione

Exclusively made for the track, this car has been updated with an evolutionary package aimed at further improving handling and performance.

Ferrari 360 GTC

The Ferrari 360 GTC is the race version of the Ferrari 360 and the brainchild of Gene Client Department and Michelotto Automobili.

Ferrari 612 Scaglietti

The 612 Scaglietti demonstrates Ferrari's talent for innovation and design.

Ferrari F2008

The F2008 is the 54th single-seater built by Ferrari to compete in the Formula One World Championship.

A seventh car, the F599 GTE, can only be availed of with every oil change at participating Shell Service Centers and Lube Stops. The F50 GT was supposed to be used in the 2005 Global GT series but production was stopped and only three cars were sold in the world.

Launched in 2008 and 2009, this new edition is part of Shell's long partnership with Ferrari.

"Shell's partnership with Ferrari is the longest in motorsports history. We take what we learn from the race track to give customers Fuel for improve their driving performance. Now, you can see the lighter side of the partnership as are teased our customers with these well-thought-out collectibles that appeal to all ages. It even makes for an early Christmas gift," says Pilipinas Shell Fuels brand manager Rose Sare.

Getting hold of these new Ferrari model cars is easy. Customers may avail of the limited edition Ferrari model car for only P99 each, with every P600 single or accumulated purchase of Shell V-Power, Shell V-Power Diesel or Helix Ultor products. Alternatively, if they purchase P500 single or accumulated purchase of other Shell fuels and lubes (Super Premium, Super Unleaded, Unleaded, Ultra, Kerosene and other lubricants at the Shell stations), Shell Shop or Select convenience store items, they will get P129 to get a Ferrari toy car. The F50 GT model car is exclusively available for free to customers who choose to avail of the oil change package or the Shell Helix Service Centre or Shell Lube Stop.

Promo runs from Oct. 20 to Nov. 30.

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Introducing The New Bridgestone **TURANZA GR-90**

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The GR-90 is optimized for an unprecedented experience in supreme ride comfort, road-handling smoothness and low-noise characteristics. Intelligently designed rounded corners combined with ideal construction rigidity provide superior handling over a wide range of roads.

EXTREME QUIET
Noise is usually caused by vibration from contact with road surfaces, but thanks to the TURANZA GR-90's superior noise-reduction technologies and dampening design, this premium tire offers a smoother, quieter ride.

ENHANCED SAFETY
The ultra-efficient tread design featuring rows of low and high angle winding grooves and flexible construction deliver outstanding traveling dynamics and better water dispersion, leading to high levels of safety and comfort.

TURANZA GR-90

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To provide the highest level of ride comfort, stability and control, the **TURANZA GR-90** is backed by a wide range of technologies designed to **reduce vibration and noise reduction** on many types of road surfaces.

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Silent AE-Block*
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A PREMIUM TOURING EXPERIENCE

The TURANZA concept — "THE MARK OF PRESTIGE"— is about taking a routine trip and transforming it into a touring experience every time. Whether for drivers that stay in the city, or drivers that take long drives, this brand can transform an ordinary ride into a enjoyable journey.

It's the feeling of being liberated while driving and enjoying with absolute confidence full control over the road and beyond, almost to the point that you realize your intended destination is less important than the journey there. Take a moment to imagine you are driving with your family, and you are enjoying conversation or simply listening to music.

And after a long drive, you arrive at your destination but you still have energy to spare. You feel relief from the stress and stress of daily life. It is a moment where you are released from the ordinary.

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Jude LIFESTYLE
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

FANS of NU107 light candles in honor of their favorite rock station.

NU may have lost the battle, but its rockers are a tough bread.

So long, NU107

Super mourns the death of NU107

By Joel Segorio

AC Gold Tower, Ortigas—Candles were planted on the ground, like a true wake. After 23 years, the legendary NU107, Home of 80s Rock, was ending its rock format. Hundreds of devotees and listeners, orphaned by the demise, gathered for a vigil. They grumbled about the rebranding, blamed management demands, but bore the event with solemnity.

Sticky crowds packed the swelteringly cramped room. Visitors elbowed each other, eager to steal a glimpse at the final moments of 107's history. The DJ booth was cramped with nearly every jam and process 107 DJ, goodbye off, hugging each other, posing second hours. Taped to the door was the most insignificant remainder his food and drinks inside the booth.

A sympathy note taped inside, crowded with salutations, thanks, and messages of course. They were outnumbered by statements of certainty that the Filipino rock community will never die. For them, tonight wasn't about marking the end—it was about celebrating the station's history and the incomparable mark it left on the music community.

"You [listeners] are all a part of this as much as we [DJs] are. Maybe more," sobbed DJ Bunzon.

A decorated Christmas tree sat in office's rear, never to be used.

The DJs bade tearful goodbyes on air, to coworkers and listeners. They wept and embraced each other. Station owner Monte Herrera and co-with Vicki Belo appeared to commiserate with them and the fans. Salutations were made in station manager Cito Hernandez, whom the staff have nicknamed "Dad."

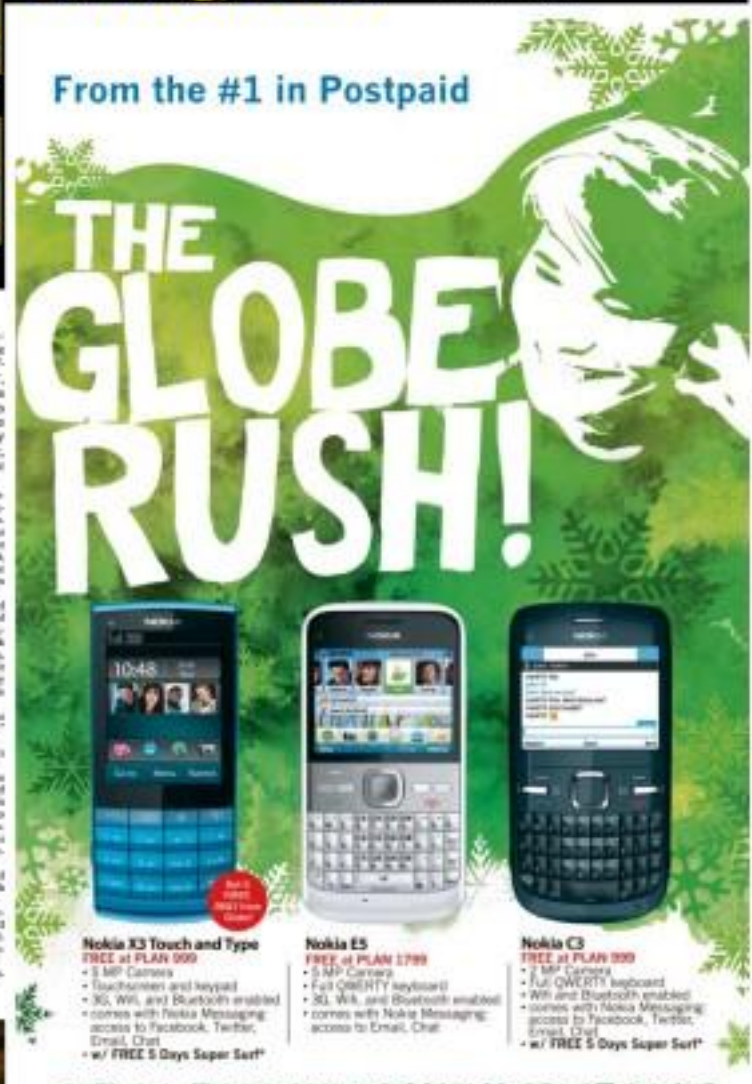
"Thank you for the station's history," said a sombre Francis Reyes. Cito answered with the classic standby: "Last two minutes."

NU was then cast off to a roaring response: The Boardwalk' "Ang Huling El Bimbo." The crowd sang in unison, blending words and scenes, swaying their candles.

"This has been NU107, dwell i FM. Signing off."

And then there was static.

"ANG Huling El Bimbo"—the crowd gathered for one last song.



NU rock jocks Ibrahim, Hirono Acebedo and Quark Henares

NU plays its last song, "Ang Huling El Bimbo" by the Eraserheads

KEEPING the faith alive

NU rocks one last time

Text and photos by Coco Salonga

NU rock jock Pierol has been with the station for the most number of consecutive years. Here, he poses outside NU station after meeting listeners.

MUSIC director Alex drops by to pay tribute.

ROCK jocks Rose and April

CEO Hermosisima, NU 107's station manager

INSIDE the station, outside the booth

"SLAPJAW" by the Eraserheads starts the final two hours of NU. The crowd goes wild singing along.

THE EDITION packed with rock jocks, musicians and fans

THICK crowd outside the station as midnight nears—the biggest listening-street party in recent history

A FANBOY sent in tribute to NU 107 for the last time.

CAPTURED: outside NU 107, right before it signed off

FANS' sentiments filled up the freedom wall.

NU death: From radio to the internet?

NU DJs describe the changing music landscape

By Joel Angelo Q. Segovia

Pilipinas Kay Cariño was also he experienced about loving creative music.

WHEN news broke out that NU 107 was ending its rock format of 23 years and switching to a popular-based format, its loyal fans were outraged. One fan said "forever matters" were at decision in the Philippines, and what was replacing NU was "another yoga station, not for the music."

The sentiment approximates that of former NU 107 chief executive Francis Reyes, who famously said that "We [NU 107] all felt disappointment, anger, but I've always been aware of the dynamic current financial problems."

"Friends tell me there's no other station on the dial to turn," said former NU DJ Cyrus Francisco.

Cyrus and Francis bear an ill will toward so-called mass movements, but both agree listeners should have a choice. "I think it's the music market people that NU did not like," said Cyrus. "If you speak English, you're labeled 'alibata,'" said Francis.

"The Pinoy is definitive about it 'ako na ako.' Sanggang dikit ang ako." Yes, many stations reflect the mass and style of many Filipinos. But radio can also be experimental, about loving creative music.

"Some of us [former NU staff] are responsible for what the station is rehearsing into," he added.

MOR said it a major upheaval in the Philippine music industry, much like MTV Philippines's recently. But even Peterson said, "Other stations know there's a circumstance."

Magic 89.9's Tony Toni said the spectrum of music being broadcast locally was already small when NU folded. "It's not pop or metal, NU helped other music thrive."

While he realizes that the music industry is about numbers, he says the end of NU was nonetheless "an awakening." He hoped "a next level" of self-confidence would be embellished to set up a new rock station.

Cyrus also hoped a future station would pick up NU's mantle as champion of rock.

Audiences and the way they listen to music have irrevocably changed.

Francis said people no longer value the time to "invest" in listening to music. "When I was younger, if I heard a song I liked on the radio, I'd pick up the single. If I liked it, I'd buy the album. I'd take time to learn what the band was about."

According to Francis, people's intentions are divided by the platform of music offerings. Internet access through online music sharing and downloading has made listeners fickle.

"Everything is reduced to a soundbite," said Francis. "If you pay attention [to the events and their music], that makes you special."

It was no secret in NU 107 that their pay was low.

MORE C2

Pilipinas Kay Cariño was also he experienced about loving creative music.

Saying goodbye with a ruckus

The last edition of the NU Rock Awards was not a silent fall into the abyss

By Clarissa Bread Bautista

NU 107 has gone off the air. Last Sunday, the rock station signed off for the last time as fans congregated outside its offices in Ortigas. The station, which has been on the air for the past 23 years, said goodbye to listeners forever with the Eraserheads classic "Ang Huling El Bimbo."

However, this wasn't the only significant venue in the NU 107 farewell tour. The 17th installment of the NU 107 Rock Awards was the last rebel yell in a long line of rebel yells. The headbone would be silenced for the awards was by virtue of the vote winners' Franco and announcer Tanya Markova. But the night was more a celebration of history and collective recognition of musical talent.

NU Rock Awards main stage Eraserheads, Imagination, Urbandub and Greyhounds paid tribute to the station by playing old songs that harkened to an heyday. Hip, shock, which won the band of the year award in 2001 and 2002, performed a performance of "Cando Bendal" to a rendition of its old hit "Speed Orange." Greyhounds played the requested anthem "Pighost" with help from Gloc-9/Skinflute vocalist Ian Tayao. Urbandub's members were first heard of in March when NU 107 picked up on its song "Soul Searching," played the throwback track and more scenes but "Face of Tomorrow."

Impressive reunion as on the nostalgia theme of the night, playing the first two bars of "Balisong" before breaking into new single "Hangover." During the last few moments of the band's performance, singer Eric Dan of paid a last tribute to the station, saying that "Kung wala ang NU107, wala kami dito."

The sentiment is echoed by a slew of bands whose early albums did not receive airplay outside of the station. "We owe everything to NU," said Urbandub's singer Jugs Jugueta, adding that the series of that station's demise bore down on him like the death of an uncle or a cousin. Or bands up.

"We gave us our first true airplay through 'In The Zone.' Do you remember that event from 'Dare Thing You Do,' when they first heard their song on the radio? We were excited to take that, all thanks to NU."

"When our first album came out, nobody played our songs except for NU. Way before the band implosion of 2006, NU was already playing our songs."

Ely Hermosisima, NU 107's station manager, said that he had mixed feelings about the last edition of the Rock Awards. "I was excited being at the 17th Rock Awards, but at the same time, I was really sad, because it was the last one," he said.

The station was able to hold off on the jetlines to put on a final show that is worthy of the fans. It has cultivated over the years. Performances from the Youth, The Down, Up Dharma Down and Illusive Bones and the Reunited Go-on, gave a glimpse of the past and the future of a music scene that will forever be indebted to NU 107.

Where the rock jocks will go

It's never goodbye for these all-too-familiar voices

FOR Forever's board the fact of these adored DJs.

By Jed Angeles/Q Sagsoia

"THIS is the home of NU Rock, because this is home," Francis Reyes stressed on NU's final moments on air. "But sometimes, home calls you to get out and try new things. This night is calling us to go out, but we can always go home."

For villain three NU 107 rock jocks on headset postgame.

Joystick Jay (Jay Santiago)

NU debut: 2005

Former show's and time slot: Upswing, 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

A handsome woman with a baby approached Jay for money. "Sorry, wala na akong (whatta)." Jay pouted. Jay won't stray from vocal work. He dubs Spanish dramas from Spanish to English and from Tagalog to English. Jay, who's gay, joked: "I have to sound manly, which is a challenge. I don't pass off as a 40-something Spanish man."

Though bittersweet at first's end, he expressed relief at not checking in for dawn duty more. "More gigs for me to go to. No more AM shows!"

Jewel Angeles

NU debut: 2009

Despite quitting earlier this year, Jewel was there for the station's final sign-off. She says she plans attend whatever gigs currently working. She announced at stood. "I'm learning my job more," while she bantered with Jay about employment.

Kim Marcilla

NU debut: 2002

Former show's and time slot: Gateways to Eleven, Monday to Saturday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"We'll try to stand up again," Kim, hopeful of the NU family. She said most of the DJs will relate to the sentiment, "but Mr. Neill be the best of our lives." She's less on fans of her own jokes. "I might be back. But we'll never know, do I?" she quipped off, glibly excusing herself from the crowd for being drunk.

Rowena Ruiz

NU debut: 2000

Former show's and time slot: The Reel Score, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

After a drunken impression of an Irish accent, Rowena launched into a rapid about-an-and-declaration had it's other jobs. She's now working in the music "Women, voice actor, English teacher, events manager ... jewelry designer—ew. Jay, you have to have a normal—oh, and musician!" About NU, she said it was "the only station that never changed its (rock) format." Rowena once said a high-paying broadcasting job got it to practice's life. Fifteen jobs work for her. "I may have ADHD."

Pontri Bernardo

NU debut: 1997

Musicale veteran jock Pontri mused he might run for governor, like Arnold Schwarzenegger. More seriously, he said he would "think. Then think again." Though he moonlights as a fitness instructor, he says the remuneration isn't good enough on its own. Will he bond his comic voice to another station? He smiled sadly. "Kung kinail MO (Kung ma lang) ok da?"

Francis Brew (Francis Reyes)

NU debut: 1999

Former show's and time slots: In the Raw, Sunday, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.; 90 Album Review, Monday, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.; regular broadcasts, Monday to Thursday, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The mention of all rock jocks plans to "take a vacation." Brew refuse to radio. As he puts it, "I know I think I'm employable anywhere else." On the radio, he receives hopes for commercials and does photography with girlfriend Stella Santiago. He hopes to continue "in the Raw," the label home bring pad for "mini-vest island, on the Internet. For nearly of The Raws, he plans to start several new bands.

Cyrus the Virus (Cyrus Fernandez)

NU debut: 2009

Former show's and time slot: 3 a.m. to 6 a.m., 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Cyrus will explore working "despite had sigil to college." He plans to venture into online features, music and news writing. He's also focusing on managing bands and Auditioned Productions, an events company that organizes bands' gigs. He plans to Ed appointment year, for a station that remains "secret."

NU death: From radio to the Internet

From page C2

"I always told those who'd audition for us, 'You're not going to get rich here. I'd recommend them to colleges, insurance or FAX,'" Kim Marcilla called NU "the lowest paying station."

Pontri Bernardo noted that call centers were a higher paying job. "(Most talent do's as some."

Princess drew similarities between call center and DJ training. Both required mastery of English and good listening. He said it was hard to find intelligent people who wanted to join NU in the last few years. "Both 3d-Ling and being a call center agent required the same skills. Call centers paid more."

"We didn't do it for the money, but for the passion," said Kim. Tony said "Sage se tage ni Kuya (My owner from Honasan) chia, but he just kept it going because of his love for rock."

Cyrus was weary even when he was in college that radio was a dying industry. Intel journeyed a DJ job nonetheless.

Francis said he stayed "for the people, the music."

Francis, who played guitar for long running band The Dawn, cautioned longevity in today's industry. "If you want longevity, you have to market yourself. If you're playing metal, part of your image is long hair and leather clothes. Some musicians refuse to market themselves, but they need to. And you just need to write good songs."

Tony emphasized treading the line between business and character in radio. "Be open to advertisers, but stick to your (music) guns plan. You have to be selective about your music and promoters, because it's a business.

"You have to be open about moving on."

"Bench has a wide audience," said Cyrus. "You just need to know how to market the music."

Despite the Internet being a double-edged sword for the radio industry, it to where new music will emerge.

Francis hopes to continue "In the Raw," his radio show space of new bands, online.

Cyrus sees the Internet as the new venue for music.

"I've listened Splashdown and Internet rock radio as the Swiss music will thrive in.

The NU jocks are planning a reunion in Francis's house. "Of course," he said. "We're going to remember on the night and drink our hearts/doing died. We were a part of it."

Style source

for glam and trendy looks

JUSTGo fashioned Fashionista and postcards-on-the-edge look, a 1980's street glam and casual-world revitalized with neat layering styles, big baggy shirts, jumpsuits, short shorts and frilly floral bubble skirts that possess chain belt lines and schematic colors.

Fashion blogs and style source for women Just G. has recently unveiled its latest collection of apparel and accessories that exhibit the exuberance and spirit of today's young female generation.

Saturday of The Finest Living Co., Inc. (the company behind Just G.) says the new collection represents the current styles and trends this youth market is going gaga for lots of individual styles and specialties. Its create one's own styling and overall appearance.

The new collection's overall theme also reflects the styles and fashion taste of women as popular MTV shows like Beverly Hill.

Sabrina says today's young generation of women, which is Just G.'s target market, get their inspiration for dressing up from watching popular TV shows, music videos, and the Internet, which has become the fast purveyor of trends and style followed globally.

Just G. apparel is all about a big palette of diverse trends and styles women ages 14 to 25 could easily identify with—from a vintage, street fashion, rock glam, and Emo culture or Goth."

Some fashion bold and the element of surprise and individualism, which the young generation could relate to, is the wear dressing up to separate them from the rest, was reflected in a previous Just G. Collection, which featured apparel and accessories inspired by Alice in Wonderland but infused with some elements of Goth.

The show's layout and arrangement also reflect the Just G. clothing theme: French postcards and stamps on white walls highlighted by an old black vintage clothes cabinet and lined cages where accessories hang.

Just G. was a successful venture put up by Sabrina six years ago. The store was established primarily to cater to the fashion needs of teen women as well as young women who want stylish and trendy apparel to go with their lifestyle.

Sabrina is considered a local fashion industry maven. Fifteen years ago, she and her husband put up Singersways, a local manufacturer of children's clothing that boasted the success path and now has branches abroad.

Branches: Just G. boutique stores: SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM North EDSA, SM Cebu, SM Southmall, Eastwood, Sta. Lucia, Just G. department store corners: SM Megamall, SM Makati, SM Mall of Asia, SM Dalvao, SM North Edsa, Landmark Trinoma, Robinsons Galleria, RDS Festival, SM Pampanga, Robinsons Ermita, Singersways with Just G. corner: Shangri-La, Rockwell, SM Pampanga, Robinsons Metrowest.

MORE TREATS THAN TRICKS AT ROCKWELL

For the first time, the Rockwell community gathered together last October 30 to celebrate a scary and fun-filled evening at the Plants vs. Zombies-inspired Halloween Hunt, a free scavenger hunt exclusive to Rockwell residents and their friends.

With eager parents registering their children as early as 9 am, The Rockwell Information Center in Hidalgo Drive was turned into a Halloween House Effect with miniature greenwoods, buttercreas, witches, pirates and ninjas all eager to make friends, play games and fill their pumpkin pails with candies. And they did just that.

As Rockwell brought the video game to life for one day, groups of kids and adults armed with a treasure map, excitedly raced in and around the Center from 10 am to 2 pm as they completed fun games for the chance to win an iPad Touch and a Toy Road kit.

At Kidz Station, the participants hopped from the Rockwell Club to the Power Plant Mall and the residential towers using private tunnels and passageways.

Roast 400 children and their families were treated to more activities and treats provided by The Tutoring Club, Happy Hearts Daycare and neighborhood bistro La Jolla Lofts and Towers. Meanwhile, Hewlett Packard (HP) also lent Touch-Smart computers where kids can play the popular video game at large. The kids' costumes were also made more likable with face painting by Party Painters. They flashed their best smiles and struck a pose at the Picture Perfect Booth found in the Edades model unit.

The Rockwell Marketing Team with Don Rodney (center) of the top-rated DWIZ 882AM.

At the end of the day, participants enjoyed interesting interactive performances from My Masterpiece Movement, where they acquired kids of all ages into singing and dancing original songs fit to the Plants vs. Zombies theme. Mini food carts of corn on the cob, pizzas, burgers and barbeque also lined the walkway of Block E6, ready for those hungry and tired rugrats.

Rockwell's Halloween Hunt showcased Rockwell's commitment to building a close-knit, exclusive and safe community through fun and family-oriented activities.

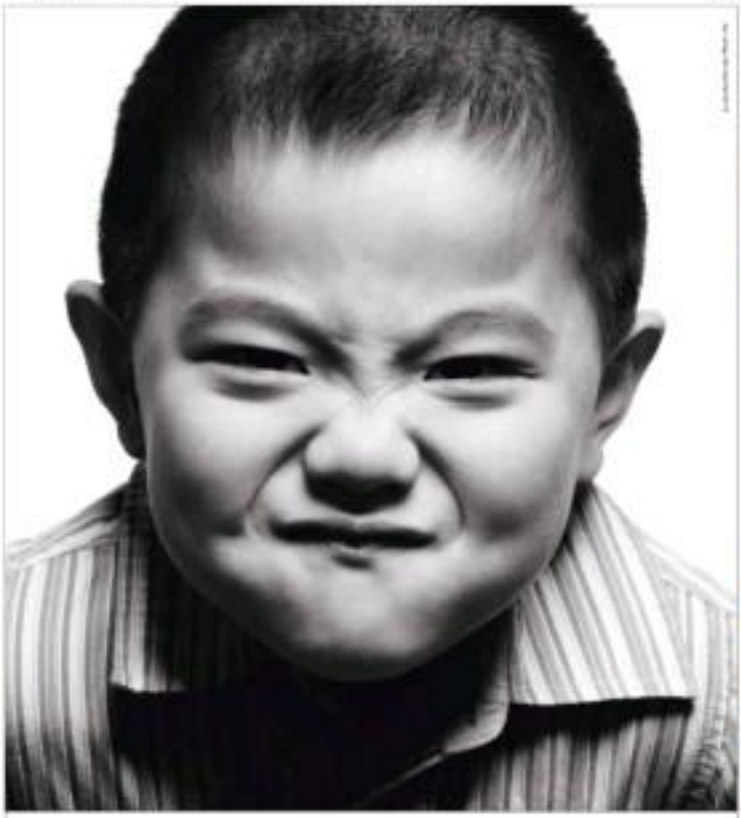
Hosting the games at the Rockwell Center.

"It was the first time we created an event where we invited all residents from the Residential Towers. It was definitely a great way for neighbors and friends to bond and get to know each other, and Halloween was the best time to do it! We had a concept with which lots of all ages were excited about, and we also had amazing partners to make this event happen!" said Vivien C. Tangkiko, Marketing Manager for Rockwell Land.

(R) Masterpiece Movement inspiring the kids with interactive performances at Block E6

Aside from ensuring lots of Halloween fun, Rockwell also made it a priority to keep the community protected and orderly by deploying a dedicated team of security personnel and marshals to safeguard the energized children and parents who were crossing the busy streets to hop to the next pit stop. "Of utmost importance was Rockwell's obligation to ensure that the children and their guardians were not only happy, but also the fact that they were kept safe at ALL times," said Tangkiko.

The Halloween Hunt is the first of many neighborhood events that Rockwell will have for their residents, tenants and members. "We are looking forward to creating more fun filled, creative and memorable experiences like this in the future, as we continue to create the lifestyle exclusive to the Rockwell community," Tangkiko added.



SMALL GOES
BIG LEAGUE HERE.

ROCKWELL

EDADES

SUPER LIFESTYLE

BPI Express Credit
BPI
Let's make it easy.
Get a FREE York Car Purifier!
For a minimum spend of at least P10,000 at Saver's Appliance Depot.
SAVER'S
Real Thrills!
BPI
FREE York Car Purifier

All aflutter over the new Twitter

By Adrian Dy

UNLESS you've been living under a rock for the past month or have sworn undying loyalty to your TweetDeck, you would have known that the main Twitter website, Twitter.com, has undergone an extensive redesign.

It's not just aesthetic, as the update comes with a lot of new features, most seemingly inspired by Twitter management apps like TweetDeck. In fact, if this is the direction the site is taking, these apps might just become a thing of the past.

So what exactly are the new features you need to get readied about?

Though it debuted last August, Twitter 10, the new version of Twitter took some time to roll out to all users. Officially, what you can look at now is still "New Twitter" in testing mode. It had a few bugs early on, but they've been cleared up since and, quite frankly, the beta version's ready to roll.

How do you get to "New Twitter"? Look at the top of your Twitter page for a blue horizontal strip, with the Twitter mascot outlined in white, encouraging you to try out the new version. Oblige him, why don't you?

It's hard to find fault with its new features

WHY PAY

Two columns

The first thing you will notice is that the second column on the right has grown much bigger. If you

TWITTER 10

SUPER EXCLUSIVE
We got Harry Potter
rockwell's
Moonlit BAZAAR
POWER PLANT MALL

Now from
Magnolia
Fresh Quality
FRESH CHICKEN
CHICKEN STATION
Your Healthy Variety
ChickenBites in popular pizza flavors
available in:
Pepperoni
Meatlovers
Bacon & Mushroom
Bursting with flavor to the last bite!

Super Exclusive

'Harry Potter' comes of age

By Noel S. De Vera

The end really does begin with the stylish, scary and sublime 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1,' the best and most grown-up Potter movie yet

What's what in Harry's world

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" is the seventh movie in the eight-movie series of film adaptations of J.K. Rowling's best-selling novels. Here's what went on in the first six movies:

'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' (2001)

We meet Harry Potter, the boy who survived the wrath of the evil Lord Voldemort, as he arrives at Hogwarts, School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, meeting friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger in England, both the book and the movie are called "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone." The proclaimed succeed in causing the series' greatest comedy, with British actors something true for all the Potter films.

'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets' (2002)

Harry realizes that Voldemort may not be dead after all, as a mysterious diary brings an unwanted visitor back from the past, threatening the life of Ron's sister Ginny in the process. This and the films' movie were directed by American director Chris Columbus, of "Home Alone" fame.

'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban' (2004)

Hardly hurting that the notorious killer Sirius Black has escaped Azkaban Prison and is en route to finish what his master Voldemort started, to kill Harry—but there is more to Sirius than it seems. Alfonso Cuarón ("Y Tu Mamá También") directs this spooky sequel, which has Michael Gambon taking over the role of Headmaster Dumbledore after the death of Richard Harris.

'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' (2005)

Harry finds himself competing in the dangerous and prestigious Triwizard Cup, but Voldemort chooses the occasion to return and his Death Eaters start to wreak out of hiding. "Four Weddings and a Funeral" director Mike Newell helms this one. Yes, that is a pre-Twilight Robert Pattinson as Cedric Diggory.

'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix' (2007)

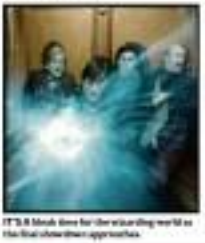
Dumbledore reveals the existence of a secret group working to defeat Voldemort, a group that included Harry's parents. This is the first Potter film directed by acclaimed British TV director David Yates, who will go on to direct all the remaining Potter films.

'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince' (2009)

Voldemort's treacherous plan unfolds in Harry's fourth year at Hogwarts as the Death Eaters get busy. Harry finds out what a boggart is, and this dark chapter ends with the heroic yet tragic death of one of Harry's closest allies.

Rocky S. De Vera

HARRY Potter and friends are all grown up and ready to do battle.



IT'S A bleak time for the wizarding world as the final showdown approaches.

© Warner Bros. Pictures | "Hallows: Part 1" is unbearably frightening almost from start to end, with Yates injecting a palpable horror feel into the movie. "Hallows: Part 1" has nightmarish scenes that make it a forbidden movie for younger audiences. Those old enough to watch the movie will love it if they don't get scared stiff first.

By itself, "Hallows: Part 1" is excellent as a setup for what promises to be an action-packed finale, it is brilliant. The movie covers the book exactly up to the end of the 24th chapter with a wicked cliffhanger, moviegoers will have to patiently wait until July next year for the second half of "Hallows" to close up on events. The most extraordinary thing about "Hallows: Part 1" is how organic it feels; it feels like a living thing, a movie in itself, not an adaptation. It is clear that Yates successfully engineered "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" to be almost better than the first half of the iconic book, and certainly far less Harry Potter movie to date. Next year, the screen wizard in David Yates gets one more chance to do even better.

Warner Bros.' "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1," opens in fifteen Manila cinemas on November 10.

Who's Who in the 'Hallows'

MEET new faces and welcome back old ones in the expansive "Deathly Hallows Part 1" cast:

NEW

Bonnie Wright Playing Ginny Weasley, Bonnie Wright is the only actress to appear in all eight movies. Wright was cast as Ginny in the first movie when she was only 9 years old.

Rhys Ifans Ifans plays Xenophilius Lovegood, father of Luna (Evanna Lynch) and editor of the off-the-wall eccentric publication The Quibbler.

Rufus Jones Jones plays Marvolo Gaunt, Voldemort's grandfather.

Rebecca Hall Hall plays Voldemort's mother, Merope Gaunt.

Nick Moran Moran plays Bill Wright, Fleur Delacour's (Clémence Poésy) boyfriend.

Natalia Tena Tena plays Nymphadora Tonks, a member of the Order of the Phoenix.

Helen McCrory McCrory plays Narcissa Malfoy, Draco's mother.

Mark Williams Williams plays Arthur Weasley, Ron's father.

Julie Walters Walters plays Molly Weasley, Ron's mother.

Alan Rickman Rickman plays Severus Snape, Hogwarts professor and Potions master.

Helena Bonham Carter Carter plays Bellatrix Lestrange, Sirius Black's cousin.

Ralph Fiennes Fiennes plays Lord Voldemort, the evil wizard who killed Harry's parents.

Michael Gambon Gambon plays Albus Dumbledore, Hogwarts headmaster.

Rupert Grint Grint plays Ron Weasley, Harry's best friend.

Emma Watson Watson plays Hermione Granger, Harry's best friend.

Daniel Radcliffe Radcliffe plays Harry Potter, the boy who survived the wrath of the evil Lord Voldemort.

Jason Isaacs Isaacs plays Lucius Malfoy, Draco's father.

Tom Felton Felton plays Draco Malfoy, Harry's rival.

Maggie Smith Smith plays Minerva McGonagall, Hogwarts professor and Transfiguration teacher.

Robbie Coltrane Coltrane plays Rubeus Hagrid, Hogwarts gamekeeper.

Warwick Davis Davis plays Professor Filius Flitwick, Charms professor.

Jim Broadbent Broadbent plays Horace Slughorn, Hogwarts professor.

Kelly Macdonald Macdonald plays Helga Hufflepuff, founder of Hufflepuff House.

Matthew Lewis Lewis plays Neville Longbottom, Hogwarts student.

Evanna Lynch Lynch plays Luna Lovegood, Hogwarts student.

Devon Murray Murray plays Seamus Finnigan, Hogwarts student.

Bonnie Wright Wright plays Ginny Weasley, Ron's younger sister.

Oliver Phelps Phelps plays George Weasley, Ron's twin brother.

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OLD

Domhnall Gleeson Gleeson plays Bill Weasley, Ron's older brother.

Clémence Poésy Poésy plays Fleur Delacour, Beauxbatons student.

Brendan Gleeson Gleeson plays Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody, Auror.

Robert Pattinson Pattinson plays Cedric Diggory, Hogwarts student.

Katie Leung Leung plays Cho Chang, Hogwarts student.

Jason Isaacs Isaacs plays Lucius Malfoy, Draco's father.

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All aflutter over the new Twitter

From page D1

haven't clicked anything yet, it'll show you some familiar sites—who's following you and your followers, Twitter trends, and the like.

Once you start clicking and expanding Tweets, however, that right-hand column will start to make itself scarce. Now, if this drives you out of your wits and you want to go back to old, familiar Twitter, don't panic. Clicking on the cog next to your user name will drop a menu down, where you can click on "Leave preview" to go back to "Old Twitter."

Part of the redesign is a series of tabs on the top of your timeline. You have one for Tweets that mention you, Retweets in general, different categories (Stuff you've retweeted, your Tweets that have been retweeted, etc.), a handy Search tab that saves your results, and a tab for your various lists.

There on the top, you have a bar that allows you to Tweet no matter how far down your timeline you've gotten. And you might get peeved, too, considering how Twitter will constantly scroll your timeline back down to the bottom. We need to click to load older Tweets!

Expanding tweets

Moving your mouse to the top-right corner of a Tweet reveals an arrow you can click on to expand said Tweet. As the more basic level, you'll see the Tweet "pulled out" in its right column, as well as the last three tweets from the user.

Things get more fun the more "complex" a Tweet is. You can also see if the Tweet has been replied to by other people, or if the Tweet is a reply to itself, and what it was replying to. **If you've gotten lost and forgotten the context of a reply Tweet, you'll no doubt embrace this change with open arms.**

Expanding tagged Tweets (anything involving hashmarks like "#awesomesunday") lets you see the last three Tweets at the time of your click with that hashmark—handy if you want to keep up with the latest Internet memes.

Media-minded

Twitter has also teamed up with sites like Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo, TwitPic and TweetPhoto to make the site a more immersive experience. It used to be that anything with a link would require you to open a new tab or window to explore the content. Now, that isn't the case anymore.

If you're embedded a YouTube or Vimeo link into your tweet or are viewing a tweet with one, expanding it will allow you to play the video from the tweeted column, and you can still move up and down your timeline while this is happening.

Same for pictures—expanding a tweet with a Flickr or Twitpic image will display that image on the side. And as a bonus to Flickr users, Twitter will show the magic dust of the album the picture is found in.

Step in the right direction

Twitter's upgrades make a lot of sense, and make navigating the site a lot more intuitive. Certainly, for people who have gotten so enamored of outside apps to browse Twitter, these changes might make you consider dropping Echofon for an open tab in Firefox.

That said, there are a few logical steps that Twitter can take to further enhance the site. It seems only reasonable, for instance, that the site should allow image previews for all sorts of links, not just Twitpic and Flickr. Ideally, as long as the url isn't to a Tweeting stub in a .jpg or .gif, Twitter ought to be able to load it when you expand the tweet.

Similarly, with all the URL-shortening sites around, it'd be nice to have Twitter show a screenshot or preview of where sites, similar to how Chrome and Safari's custom thumbnails of your most visited websites. Can you say no more Rickrolls?

I also think Direct Messages, though I like the side conversation like flow the you has, can and should be integrated into the rubs and none Timeline, so that you have a better sense of when the messages were sent.

Finally, for the people with multiple personalities out there, the ability to manage two or more timelines for users with more than one account might be integrated. That's the biggest strength right now of apps like TweetDeck.

All in all, it's hard to find fault with Twitter's new features. It's nice to see that the company is not content to rest on its laurels. **Though we're still not sure when "love Twitter" becomes "the only Twitter," and when the user-backed competitiveness will arrive** (it took years, after all, before those changes were made), it's hard to imagine anyone hating the preview for the old version.

If there are people like that, I'm sure they can adequately fill 140 characters to tell me how wrong I am.

Anniversary
SALE
on our
4th
ongoing until November 30,2010

calligaris

Designhis Bldg. No. 39 Connecticut St. Northeast Greenhills San Juan Metro Manila Philippines
Tel. 7210151-52 Fax. 7244790 email: info.calligaris@yumnisia.com.ph www.calligaris.it

AXE Seals the Deal Between FRAGRANCE AND FASHION

When it comes to the eating game, no other breed gives men a better edge than AXE. The brand is known for providing grooming products that help guys get the girl and with its participation in the Philippine Fashion Week, AXE has made its mark that behind fashion is not complete without the grace.

In nature, the male is usually more colorful than the female. He prances, he preens, he wears colorful feathers, he emits pheromones–all to convince the female of the species that he's "The One."

This isn't the case with modern humans, though. It is still evident times, even when dealing who look as much care with their dress and toilette as women do. The average guy these days does not to stand out too much from the crowd. No-night experiment with a signature shirt or a snazzy tie, but for the most part he tries to be as plain as possible.

It's time to put an end to that. AXE says the entire package is important when it comes to attracting the opposite sex.

The Relationship Between Fragrance and Fashion

"AXE isn't just about helping guys smell good," Paul Diaz, the Brand Manager of AxePhilippines said. "We're always looking for ways to help them look good." And that's where fragrance comes in: it completes the attractive package.

According to some, "fragrance is all a woman needs to wear," men on the other hand use the grace to complete their package.

But isn't looking good enough, as is popularly believed? He it's not, say scientists and fashion experts alike. It's men who are visually oriented. Who place a higher value on looks when rating how attractive a woman is.

What Women Want

Surveys reveal that women place a higher value on how a man smells than on his looks. And scientific studies have shown that women place more value on smells when it comes to choosing a mate.

This does not mean women will like an unkempt, stinky man just because he smells good. Good grooming, as such chosen to foster a man's assets while reflecting his personality, and personal charm matter too. Consider smelling great the icing on the cake, the finishing touch.

Having been inspired by the sensual and intoxicating fragrance that women liken on a man, AXE has continued to shape men's fashion and lifestyle attitudes by going beyond grooming products in order to provide the complete package that will thrill women wild.

Paul Diaz, AXE Brand Manager, is an epitome of fun as AXE mans shower.

Hosting the AXE Fashion Show is the versatile AXE man, Piolo Pascual.

AXE Philippine Fashionweek showcased sleek formal wear that gives men that dashing debonair look

The AXE Philippine Fashion Week presentation also featured designs that play with vibrant colors and subtle hues to represent the casual side of summer.

From preppy long-sleeves and casual shirts to khaki pants and shorts, the AXE Summer and Spring collection exuded a sense of comfort and style.

2b LIFESTYLE

Attitude good and bad, and the fashion-dead

Just because it was Fashion Week didn't mean everyone was well-dressed. But there was attitude in abundance —if some of it bad

BENJAMIN Tang Buci summary...smile.

CRAZY and smile successfully pulled off by Andrei Chang, thanks to his long wardrobe.

Now you can use your ATM card at over 20,000 stores nationwide!

It's now more convenient to pay your purchases as BancNet, Expressnet and MegaLink payment terminals are now interconnected! **With more terminals available at different stores nationwide,** using your ATM card has never been this easy! So avoid the hassle of having to line-up just to withdraw from your ATM account.

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MEGALINK

Lee Jeans tapped universities for Fashion Week

MERMAID! Bohol collection focused on dark shades.

PRIDE! Jasper to runway Pia Valencia's edgy design.

By Niko Mark M. Sebios
Correspondent

DURING THE "LEEberation Day" show of Lee Jeans for Fashion Week last Dec. 30, the apparel brand mobilized its design troops, getting fresh talents from a place that encourages learning, creativity and individualism: the university.

For six weeks, some 30 La Salle-CSB, UP and ADDU students (five from each school) underwent intensive training in design under seasoned fashion mentors, converting the basics of retail design, collection composition and overall repackaging and styling.

With that farming plus their raw creative talent, the students' collections for the brand shown on the Fashion Week runway were highly anticipated.

The Ateneo group presented a collection called "Crystal Laundry," Those who were given a spin were treated to a fresh array of clothes stripped of color, bleached and white-washed. Pieces like pantsuits and maxi skirts were printed, but a collection that had a "De Jeans" vibe.

The UP team's collection was called "Bandolera," which was a union between military and revelry. Apart from the presence of bandanas, utilitarian cargoes and bandoleers, functional details—such as zippers, pockets and belts—were also included.

Sara Fernando, Rae Black, Anna Pantaleon, Jeremy Yap and Margaux Blas, the "members of the In La Salle-CSB team, were inspired by music festivals, so the pieces from their "Trapfest" collection were very loud and colorful.

Mary were bedazzled graphics and shorts, while those for women included flowy pieces like cropped shorts to crossback halters...all evoking the free-spirited feelings by.

Lastly, the DLSU team, composed of Cloud Solano, Jedrick Gonzaga, Joseph Galido, Phebe Ui and Pia Valencia, focused on dark denim, manly silhouettes and a play on textures with their collection called "Midnight Rain." It showcased clothes that could transition easily from day to night.

Apart from signing up its student designers, Lee also got celebrities to model the clothes, together with celebrities like Bianca Manalo, Rich Hoyzon and Priscilla Meirelles.

UTILITARIAN! Cargoes and fatigues inked UPG collections.

AH DOH to '70s dressing.

La Salle student designs for jeans brand for Philippine Fashion Week

AVIVA Patrignani rocking bandanas.

JUXTAPOSITION! Dress made of upholstered print and denim.

IVAN Dee chose an electric denim outfit.

FESTIVE headdresses and innovative denims.

IT WAS Parrignani's first time to join Fashion Week.

Text and photos by Roman Capili
Contributor

Aviva Patrignani, 23, from De La Salle University, CSB, won tickets to the second batch of Philippine Fashion Week's LEEberation Day. Five students were chosen from Ateneo, UP, UST and De La Salle Universities, CSB.

Anna sits down with *24/7* to talk about her experience:

1. How did you get chosen for this project?

She had to create two sketches. It was like an audition, where we submitted the sketches to Lee when they evaluated our works.

2. Who was your mentor/guide during the project?

Our mentors were tasked was Sir Gerry Rodgriguez, while our mentor in Lee, who helped us throughout everything—from sketches, schedules and motivation—was Ryan De Leon.

3. When did you guys start with the project?

Our first meeting with Lee was Sept. 30. That's the time we talked about concepts, silhouettes and plans.

4. How did you balance the ongoing with school work?

Oh, it was very difficult (Laughs). We just created a schedule when we were all free, which was every Saturday. I made sure I'd finish all my schoolwork during the week. But, so that on Saturdays I was able to focus on Lee.

5. Did you make new friends?

Mayroonnaco Margate, Ivan, Bianca and Ray. We talked really since we were already close friends even before the project. During the whole Lee experience, my close friend Ray Dark was the one who made the biggest impact on me because every time I was stressed or going through tough times with school and Lee, he was the one who was always there for me. He made sure I was back on my feet.

I made really good friends with other schools, too. Ivan Montano from Ateneo was the first new friend I made from outside schools. Daniel Velasco from UST never failed to make me laugh, and I enjoyed every conversation with Jessa Gomez from Ateneo. I also had the greatest time with Yanie Medina from UP. I super love everyone! I've shared memories with each and every member from all schools.

6. What was your theme for your runway design?

Our theme for Lee was called "Trapfest," inspired by music festivals. Our collection was colorful, inspired by music festivals. We used plaid prints and we played around with accessories from head to toe. It's all about getting into the Spring/Summer vibe.

7. Did you experience any difficult moments during the entire process of designing?

I didn't find the process totally difficult. The whole process of making a collection—from the conceptualization and the design process to the overall look and the accessories—was satisfactory. It brought out creativity, but everything was enjoyable. In the end, after we finished, I felt a great sense of fulfillment. All the tough moments suddenly faded, like everything was easy, because it was fun!

8. What excited you about Fashion Week?

Honestly that I was going to be part of it for the first time!

Attitude good and bad, and the *fashion-dead*

(continued on E2)

CARLOS Concepcion and Lauren Uy: We love the stars and shimmer, as slip and dot.

DON'T

YOU'RE just in the wrong bandspheres, honey!

PUR (or JR-Inspired) Mandal'! Emma you're Avery Westlake ...in New York or in Paris.

WHERE are the other men in rights?

DENNIS Robles: Get to love those statement shoes!

DON'T This is a perfect example of how to ruin the classic black and white, plus meringue or recon the handbag to your room after.

WE dare you to try to explain this in fashion's terms...we can't.

ANNA: Nope. Now, this is attitude.

BIANCA Gonzalez: Smoking red hot sexpiece for her bod.

DIVINE Lee looking ravishing in classic white-legged pants. Even if she's stunned up, her get-up is hot.

SMMH Make: Allene —simple, classic stunning in red and flats for confident, no-affectous.

CINDY Go: The logo Chanel pendant does it.

PAULINE Sison (see: in a sequined cropped jacket and a pair of black pants—fashionable at its best.

Tell us what you think. Email us at 2b@mb.com.ph or 2b@mail.com

Giving is Beautiful

Gift giving should be a pleasant and enjoyable task. As Marian Liden puts it, "The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious." If we are giving for the sake of being able to say that we gave something, or if we give to be able to show off, then we are missing something that should actually give joy to both the recipient and the receiver. There are a lot of occasions when we have to choose something to give someone but there is one other reason with so much gift giving requirements as Christmas!

But before you scream "Season's Greetings!" plan ahead and make time for creative things like wrapping gifts or making cards—planning is essential for stress-free giving. Here are some tips we have gathered from years of gift giving to friends, family, co-workers and even those not-so-special someone's.

Tip #1

Make a list. What works for me is creating groups or categories like "family", "friends", "co-workers", and "helpers". Don't forget to include your yaya and the gardener who comes to once a week, maybe the guards at your condominium as well. You may want to indicate age, gender and interests of you know them—this will make it easier for you to come up with well-thought-out gifts for each person on your list. Jot down gift ideas and budget per person so that you'll know how much you should prepare to spend.

Tip #2

Have a gift box—or a gift cabinet or a gift room, depending on how many people you have on your Christmas list! After you've made your list, simply throw in the presents that you've already bought into the box. Make sure to cross out or mark the name of that person on the list so that you are now left browsing "shorter"!

Tip #3

Start buying early. You don't have to finish buying presents for everyone one month before Christmas BUT try to go through half of your list by the time December rolls in. You can start with certain categories or those you will buy from the same store. It's really up to you, but that's just a bit till you're ready before Christmas. You'll end up getting stressed, spending more, and not having suitable gifts for the recipient.

Tip #4

Food can make easy gifts. In our culture, you can never go wrong with giving food as gifts. But take it a step further and give it some thought — a food pack for an athlete friend may consist of all-natural energy bars, lo-fibre cereals, and organic juices. Someone with diabetes from his case of diabetes will probably appreciate a box of sugar-free chocolates. Kids with food intolerances will be excited to receive dairy free ice cream or gluten free chocolate chip cookies. A healthier and more natural food alternative will show that you care more than buying a box of hazmates from the pantry shop!

Tip #5

Mom's places to shop gift from. Ideally go to stores that are accessible, service-minded and with enough staff to assist you and attend to you personally. Avoid the crowded supermarkets and department stores and the usual shops people frequent. A better alternative are the Healthy Options stores in Shangri-la Mall, Greenbelt 5, Trinoma, Festival Mall and Eastwood. Aside from saving you from sweaty crowds and long lines, you'll have unique gifts from select stores.

GARFIELD

B.C.

PEANUTS

DICK TRACY

LOVE MUFFS

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TUDOR

BEN

RIKKI MACHINE

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

HOROSCOPES

BY FRANCES DRAKE

LEO (July 23-August 22) Your ruler Sun is in a wonderful, social sky! It's all full and active and a lot of you are in love. The company of others is important to you and you will attract wonderful opportunities.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22) Your ruler Mercury is in a sensitive, emotional sign. Your feelings are very strong and you are more than usually sensitive. Expect misunderstandings and possibly even a row.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22) Venus, your ruler, is in a fiery sign. This is a time for you to be extra careful. Don't take risks and don't be impulsive. Your good friends will understand.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21) You are a passionate sign and you are in a passionate mood. Your ruler Mars is in a sensitive, emotional sign. Be careful not to be too possessive or jealous. Don't let yourself be upset.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21) Mercury, your ruler, is in a fiery sign. This is a time for you to be careful. Don't take risks and don't be impulsive. Your good friends will understand.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19) You are a sensitive, emotional sign. Your feelings are very strong and you are more than usually sensitive. Expect misunderstandings and possibly even a row.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18) You are a passionate sign and you are in a passionate mood. Your ruler Mars is in a sensitive, emotional sign. Be careful not to be too possessive or jealous. Don't let yourself be upset.

PISCES (February 19-March 20) You have a very sensitive, emotional sign. Your feelings are very strong and you are more than usually sensitive. Expect misunderstandings and possibly even a row.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles and to print extra grids, go to www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	1	4	8	5	9	7	6	2
9	6	7	2	1	4	3	5	8
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4	7	3	1	6	5	8	2	9
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8	3	2	5	4	1	9	8	6
6	4	9	9	2	8	5	1	3
7	5	1	6	7	7	2	3	4

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

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MISMATCHED accessories that somehow go seamlessly well together

F&H's *indie* fashion fest

KEY elements in achieving the hippie look are headbands, oversized bold colorful pieces and plaid-or-mangles.

OKAY! Feel free to mix up and mismatch as long as you see to add some striking shapes to your whole look.

By Carlos Concepcion
Photography: Brett Quinto

Folded & rising draws inspirations from such favorites Coachella, known as the god of all music festivals. It's a once-a-year event that features a huge array of artists, from famous performances like Jay-Z to more independent bands like MGMT.

People wrong the Nevada doesn't just for the big event. The atmosphere of Coachella dictates the look, the common element being some boho chic feeling. It's all about freedom, antidisestablishment, movement, but, most of all, it's about the music.

HIPPIE goddess Anne Curtis

SOME amazing ink on upcoming model Mark Wilkinson for that rebel attitude

OUT-OUT denim vest with plaid accessories

Chic—even off the runway

Text by Vicky Herrera

Tights, glasses, clothes. These were the fads for those models from the 24 to 32 at the Mall of Asia and SM Megamall Convention Center grounds during the Philippine Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2011 collections.

We spot models usually wearing other people's designs. They have the privilege of donning off the collections of our very own Filipino designers and brands.

The better news is, their style trends from the runway to the streets, and vice versa.

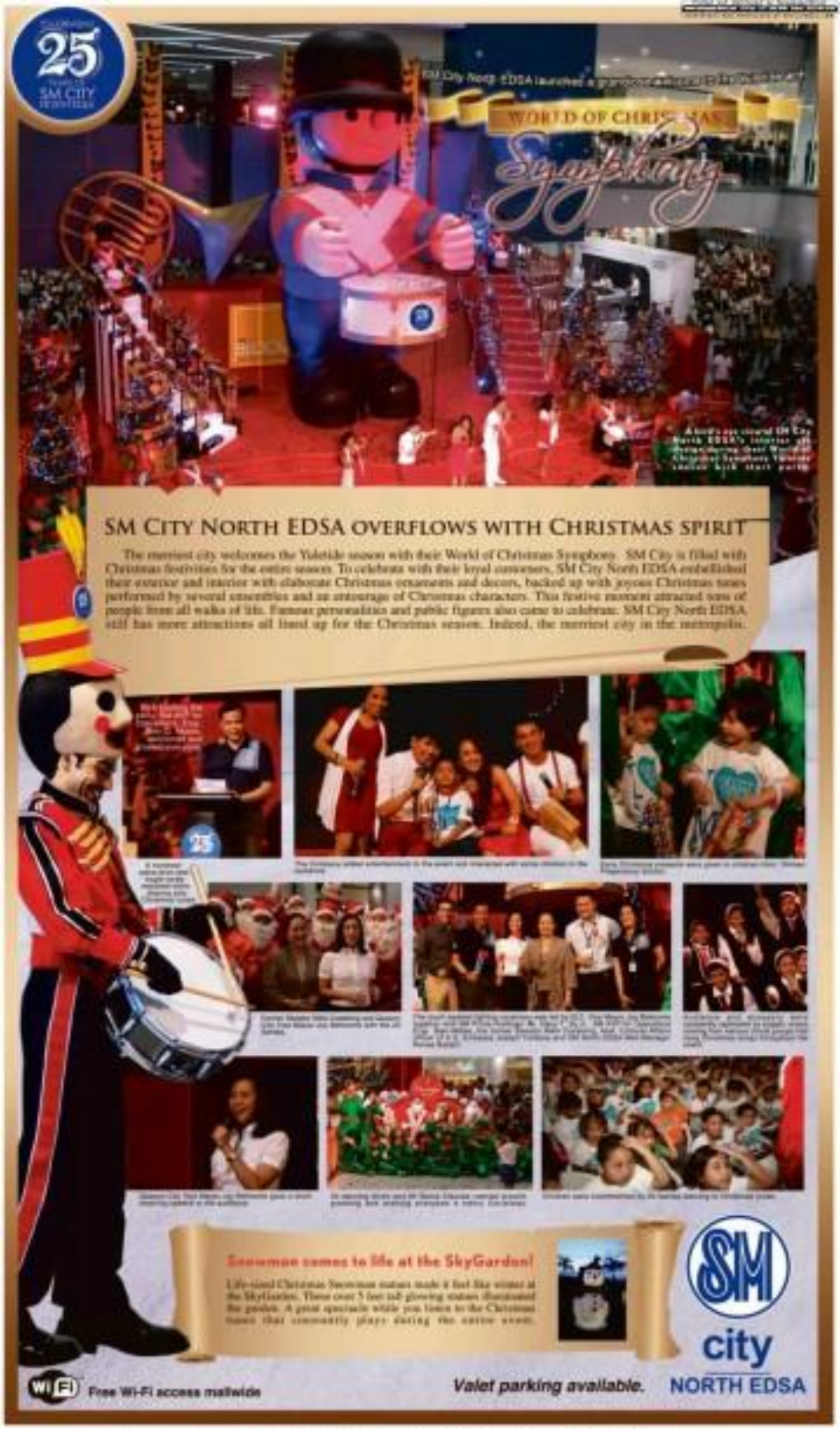
We caught up with a few models on the go and we can definitely say they don't fall short of stunning.

MAKING long skirts oh so edgy

Volleyball shoes + Mary Janes = adorable style

My fave dress ever

Layered top, leather shorts, printed stockings and ankle boots for the look



SM City North EDSA overflows with Christmas spirit

The merriest city welcomes the Yuletide season with their World of Christmas Symphony. SM City is filled with Christmas festivities for the entire season. To celebrate with their loyal customers, SM City North EDSA embellished their exterior and interior with elaborate Christmas ornaments and decors, backed up with joyous Christmas tunes performed by several ensembles and an entourage of Christmas characters. This festive moment attracted tons of people from all walks of life. Famous personalities and public figures also came to celebrate. SM City North EDSA still has more attractions all lined up for the Christmas season. Indeed, the merriest city in the metropolis.

Snowman comes to life at the SkyGarden!

Life-sized Christmas Snowman statues made it feel like winter at the SkyGarden. These over 5 feet tall glowing statues illuminated the garden. A great spectacle while you listen to the Christmas tunes that constantly plays during the entire event.

SM city NORTH EDSA

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For inquiries, please call 929-3641 or visit www.smnorthedsa25years.com

2b LIFESTYLE

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Picking apples

How to choose the right kind of friends

By Hannah Meloza
Student contributor (As As Skills, 2nd)

EVERY YOUNG and curious teenager will experience peer pressure and betrayal—from his secrets being leaked by so-called trustworthy friends to backstabbing and badmouthing.

But young people are still in their formative stage. The usual pursuant teenager who wants to the point of sacrificing himself for his friends will once or nothing to please them.

Young people will most likely spend endless hours, thinking about what other people think before what they really need. They will think of others' happiness before their own.

But let me tell you a story. When my good friend, Anna, was a young child, she would always play in her backyard. One day, she spotted little duckcrossing greeting around the tadpool the fence. Excited, the eagerly poked one.

Immediately after that, she rushed back inside her house to tell her dad, who warned her those mushrooms would make her sick if she touched them. Ahuacatl later, her friend passed away/ill, and she cried long hours on the couch.

A story went quite ill/sick on and ill, but there is a lesson to this, one that

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Graphics/Design: Ruben Joshua Cunio

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

'Home Suite Home' Yuletide room promo at The Heritage Hotel

THE FIRASTIS and fairies of Sale have landed at the Heritage Hotel lobby, transforming the majestic interiors into a whimsical and vivid holiday wharf from Nov. 15 until Jan. 2, 2011. Explore the walls through and life size pirate's galleon docked on a festive Palerido pier and parlay with Captain Hook and his crew alongside the twin fairies and the Sale Belle.

Celebrate joy and child like wonders of the season, bring the entire family to the Yuletide adventures of pirates and fairies for a memorable holiday break in the Home Suite Home Promo at The Heritage Hotel Manila. From Dec. 15 to Jan. 15, 2011 for only P5,000 net inclusive of an overnight stay in deluxe room with complimentary upgrade to junior suite (subject to room availability), buffet breakfast for two persons, free scheduled shuttle service to SM Mall of Asia and complimentary regular Rizal Internet.

Experience the traditional Christmas caroling at the lobby area, on Dec. 16 to 23 at 6:30 p.m. Make a difference and share your blessings to orphans singing heart warming and cheerful Christmas carols.

To top your holiday celebrations, welcome the New Year with an original menu for life. Catch the electrifying energy of the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance and Countdown Party! A kaleidoscopic buffet, invigorate you for the non-stop party fever and live band grooves, succeeding to a grand countdown to the year 2011!! Party ticket is inclusive of dinner buffet, party favors and one round of drink.

For inquiries and dining reservations, call The Heritage Hotel Manila at 814.8888 or e-mail food.beverage@heritagehotelmanila.com.

DUSIT THANI MANILA'S OH CHRISTMAS TREE

Amity in diversity. Glimmer in photo ornament. Lyrical dance of snowmen and Arts' co-founder Loralee Soong, Esther Lopez, Tanya Pineda-Valdez, WWF's group communications SVP Johanna Garcia, The Star's Kimmy Belmonte and Dusit Dreams's Robert Downs. 'Real Answers' GM Nirut Dhanmeechot.

SUGAR AND SPICE AT OXFORD SUITES MAKATI

Sugar and Spice is a singing group consisting of 7 female vocalists, a guitarist/vocals and keyboardist/vocals. They can make you move to the beat of their music with their combination of music - from 60's to 70's, 80's, from blues to ballad, from one to any, from R&B to rock and current top hits hits. Their specialty stays not only to us their ability to provide warmth and easy listening music to the ears, but also their ability to create an ambiance of creating an electrifying atmosphere of high energy. Last passed music to catch the night blues. Catch Fernandette each Friday (vocalist), Mike Eggleton and vocalist and keyboardist Donald Sagun and Sunday Annie B (singer). Oxford Suites Makati (Dorian corner 9th Burgos Streets, Bolas, Makati City) is all Fridays of November (12, 19, and 26). Show starts at 9 p.m. For more information, please call 893.0888 or visit the website at www.oxfordsuitesmakati.com.

Sparkling Thursdays at The Lounge

BLUE TS popular demand, The Lounge at Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila is extending its Sparkling Thursdays. Every Thursday in November, The Lounge is offering a 30% discount on Moet and Chandon, Veuve Clicquot and Bons Pangeon champagnes from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Bed companionship friends and colleagues, a bottle of any of these favorite bubbles can be enjoyed with a complimentary platter of appetizing snacks. Guests can choose from a selection of Mediterranean Platter, Nutmeat, a Dim Sum Basket, Tiger Prawn Spring Roll and Vegetarian Samosa or a Western-style plate featuring Fried Calamari, Buffalo Wings, Beef Nachos, Breaded Chicken Strips, Bruschetta and Prawn Cocktail. Guests who order a magnum of champagne will receive three platters of their choice. Sparkling Thursdays begins this Bogarty Queen Elizabeth's birthday on January 30, 2011. Tickets for the Moet Chandon Dior Imperial, the world-renowned Veuve Clicquot Rosé and Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin Yellow Label, and the vintage-passed Dom Perignon 2000, as an added treat, the charming Arthur Manning will serenade guests with all-time favorite ballads, perfectly complementing the flutes of sparkling champagne. For enquiries, please call The Lounge at 297-9000 or 290-1234 ext. 1210.

Pacquiao-Margarito fight at Pan Pacific Hotel

LIVE VIA satellite, watch the Pacquiao-Margarito World Super Welterweight championship title fight 11 a.m. at the Pacific Grand Ballrooms of Pan Pacific Manila. Tickets at P650 net per person inclusive of a.m. snack and lunch buffet with free flowing coffee. Tickets available at the business center. Terms and conditions apply. Pan Pacific Manila is at M. Adriatico corner Gen. Malvar Streets, Malate, Manila. For inquiries call 318-0700 and ask for the butler, of course!

TOASTING TO PACQUIAO AT SOFITEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA

Call ready to roomers at Sofitel Philippine Plaza on the evening of Nov. 14, as the Filipino hero will face WBO Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight champion, Manny "The Pacman" Pacquiao, takes to the ring once again, this time against Antonio Margarito of Mexico. Watch the electrifying fight on giant LCD screens and get carried away by cheers, chants and cracks of excited laughter as you indulge in a delightful champagne breakfast buffet (P2,388++ per person) where up to six bottles of champagne and bubbly flow freely from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Inquiry/reserve lunch buffet (P1,888++) will be on offer at Lobby Sports Bar. *Photo also and of the Bowie and Boxing* inspired menus, where guests may enjoy unlimited coffee, tea and juice from 7 a.m. until the end of the match. Make a date with, and get in on the betting fever at Sofitel! For inquiries and reservations, please call 832.0101-5555 ext. 8888, and 8212121-8888, or e-mail fb.sec.reception@sofitelmanila.com.

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InterCon to serve Assumption cookbook favorites

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA Café Ilustrado continues with its series of food promotions highlighting the fare of popular Filipino table fare. This time around it will team up with Mendiones Martin Pastor Limousines and Jessie Lim Kanapeng, the ladies behind the best-selling Real Edition of the Assumption Binondo Class of '79 Cookbook, for a dream selection of dishes based on recipes in the book for inclusion in the restaurant's lunch buffet spread from Nov. 6 to 24. Adding three frustrated cookbook favorites to be prepared by the book's chefs are Herbed Chicken Liver Pate, Pot Roast Beef, Pancit Kanayan, Lemon cup cake. Mixed Glace formed fruit, Beef Stroganoff with Parsley Rice, Chamoun Stuffing, Gourmet Chicken Adobo, Sweet and Sour Spareribs, Mixto mayo to Aligot and Oyster Sauce, Lito's Garlic Crab, Jessie's Tempura Sea Bass, Martin's Penne Cannelloni, Beef Balls with Italian Sausages, Assumption Tart, Ensaymada Supot Round Cake, Linzertorte, Dulce Leche, and Lolo Nena Pedro's Prime Cake, to give a free from the menu cycle.

Assumption College Batuan shoppers on Nov. 14 will be given a 20% discount on the lunch buffet price on those dates upon presentation of their batuan tickets. Assumption students and graduates with the year will be given a 10% discount on the buffet price during the promotion run when dining in groups of two while one of them pays in date for free for every group of six partaking of the lunch buffet. A unique time-out from the Assumption Facebook network must be presented to avail of the group discounts cited herein. For more reinforcement buffet price paid, P50 will go to the Assumption Binondo Schools.

Capitol at the cookbook will be on sale at Café Ilustrado to enjoy a 10% discount on food and beverage for future hotel functions and outside catering provided that the booking for such events is made during the period of Nov. 6 to 30. For Café Ilustrado reservations or for more information on the promo, please call 703-7888.

Experience holidays the Boracay Mandarin way

ORMOC, CEBU, the seventh of the season with the "Mandarin Island Experience". Have the most unforgettable journey that starts in a luxurious deluxe room with unrestricted the captivating sea view or the Boracay seashore for 3 days and 2 nights. Enjoy sumptuous breakfast buffet every morning at the Mandarin or Mandarin Cafe, Chinese Restaurant. Relaxing welcome foot massage upon check-in, complimentary use of bicycles and a selection of all entertainment and recreational activities. All these and more at Boracay Mandarin Island Hotel made everyone with the most tempting vacation rate to date for as low as P5,240 per person (for triple occupancy). If you prefer to enjoy more of their delectable cuisine, and/or the 5 different Packages only P5,595 / person (based on triple occupancy), inclusive of set lunch and dinner. This special promo packages are good until March, 2012. Boracay Mandarin Island Hotel is located at the heart of the island of Boracay, Balabag, Malay, Aklan, Philippines. For complete "Mandarin Island Experience Promo Packages," inquiries or reservations, e-mail them at: reservations@boracay.mandarin.com.ph (632) 867-9327 / 867-9700/1024-6750 or visit their website at www.mandarinboracay.com.

City Garden Hotel's holiday affordable luxury promos

MAKATI'S #1 the heart of Makati City, each person can celebrate practically in his own way. Known for its cosmopolitan, the City Garden Hotel Makati reminds each person of the wonderful year that 2010 was. Indulge in city luxury at its best with the most accommodations at very pocket friendly rates. The City Garden Hotel creates one of a kind experiences, being the best choice in your sacred space.

People are easy-and-then our need available accommodations with rooms at affordable rates. For only P1,450 per night, inclusive of with dining here, work friends, expat guests and holidaymen here. It can enjoy the weekend with buzz food, and luxurious rooms. Include the use of their amenities as you can accommodate yourself.

Whether you want to remain in your private room, or catch up with friends for a cup of brewed coffee, or spend the day shopping at the nearby malls, City Garden Hotel has all your needs covered. Make use of their great in buzz of activity from their various restaurants. Rest up as one of the rooms while facing the beautiful Manila Skyline. All these as you step into the City Garden Hotel Makati.

Spoil the ones loves with their signature November drink of the month called Bloody Sensation, a cocktail of mango nectar, liquor and fresh watermelon with a dash of grenadine for only P240+ (tax comes with a souvenir coffee mug).

To celebrate life, love and generosity, City Garden Hotel top of the line offerings will truly make the season complete. Chef's Specials of only 350+ at Le Jardin Restaurant.

Staying is forward to your loved ones has never been this incredibly easy on the pocket. Check in this hotel and be happy with this golden pleasure only at The City Garden Hotel Makati, where affordable luxury gives you at its this way.

For inquiries and reservations, visit the hotel reception or call 890 1111.

Christmas room packages at Manila Pavilion Hotel

IT IS never too early to plan ahead and book a holiday stay with family and friends this Yuletide season. Manila Pavilion Hotel, with over 500 guest rooms and suites designed with a distinctive fusion of comfort and functionality to suit the needs of business and leisure travelers, has come up with special holiday room packages for local residents in conjunction with its 'White Christmas' theme to the season of gift giving and celebration.

Holiday accommodation choices for local residents including ACE holders for single or double occupancy start at P4,000 net in a standard room; P4,400 net in a superior room; and P5,000 net in a deluxe room beginning Nov. 15.

Pavilion room packages are inclusive of breakfast and dinner for two at Seasons international lifestyle restaurant, complimentary use of the gym and swimming pool, RED X® telephone access, cable TV with pay-per-view channels, complimentary wifi access, personalized amenities, coffee and tea making facilities, among others. Rate for an extra bed with buffet breakfast is at P1,500 net per person. The package offer is valid until Jan. 31, 2011, for those who wish to let the festal holiday mood linger a while longer.

For the ultimate weekend booking with your loved ones, book two nights at P6,000 net to enjoy an additional complimentary night inclusive of breakfast for two at Seasons with Pavilion Night Tour, offered until Dec. 31. Up to two children below 12 years of age are free of charge when sharing room with parents.

For booking inquiries and reservations, call Manila Pavilion through its local toll free number at 1-800-10-PAVILION (1072845), or (632) 526 1111 extension 2200 or 2207, or via sales@manilapavilion.com, or visit www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

Picking apples

From page B1

one link to the need to please everybody, the need to do everything for other people's happiness. You are, these are some things in life that seem wonderful, they seem pleasing to you, and you will think it will please others around you, too.

Just like pleasing your friends. It will not always lead to success, and other people may berate you about it and tell you that is wrong. Even if it feels good, fulfilling and exciting, in the end you are left crying on the couch with a headache! It's no use, you cannot please everybody.

Different characters

There are many types of people in this world. Some of them, you'll never get to meet. And some, you'll be seeing for the rest of your life. It's unwise to try and mold yourself to their liking, even if it is what you please. That will not be you; that will be a miniature of everything everyone wants you to be, and not what you want to be.

Some people are a little dull, dry yet genuine, and some have eccentric personalities that even the briefest of interactions are extremely enjoyable and amusing.

Some people are terrible, degrading and berating others to boost their feelings of inferiority toward themselves. They will temper your self-esteem, reminder you, misunderstand you, and won't take any explanation. They will use you as someone you aren't, just so they could feel better about themselves.

These people will work endlessly to put you down, perhaps even burn the midnight oil just to think of ways to pierce verbal daggers at you. They will not stop until you break down in tears. There are also people similar to the former; they seem kind, sweet, genuine and good, but in truth they are just as terrible on the inside, as those who are terrible on the outside.

They will backstab you; find ways to ruin you from behind the curtains, while on the stage they play as your good friend. Scarily, they will work to destroy your reputation, your relationships with others and clouds your every thoughts.

But don't let these people find you into thinking you are not good enough for anything or anybody, because you most certainly are as long as you do your best and work hard.

Negative people, thoughts

These people merely have poor self-esteem, drowning the confidence, hopes and dreams of others in hot, dark cure. They are starving for attention, love and respect only. All you have to do is ignore them!

In truth, all they are doing is passing negative things on you. Remove these pins, and keep on living the way you want to live. It is true that it is very hard to ignore them, to just leave them be and go on with living, because I have been there many times.

Their words will hurt and sting, and they may leave deep marks in you, but you must walk tall and proud and show that it doesn't mean a thing to you. These marks are there for you to show off as proof that you have been there and done that, and they're just wanting their time putting you down. Show off those scars; you survived.

On choosing friends

Imagine the world as a honeycomb apple tree, and you are the harvester. Some apples are all right, they may not be great, but they're good. Some apples are terribly rotten and should be thrown away immediately.

Some seem all right on the outside, but on the inside they are worse, resting the seemingly fresh fruit. And then there are the beautifully ripen apples; the apples that are perfectly fruit, sweet, and juicy. They will go great with anything, and you know it.

These are the different types of people/connections, you may want to pick the good apples, but always try to pick the best, the ripest, and the freshest!

Leave out those rotten ones, look inside and outside; they should be thrown away and ignored.

Those rotten apples will make you sick, but those good apples will make you healthy and happy. Always remember to pick your apples right.

Animal Science is a 14-year-old student from De La Salle Santiago Zobel school. She has a lot of hobbies, most of which involves arts...from digital art, painting, sketching, poetry and comic and story writing. Aside from singing and playing tennis, she loves to read psychology and epic poems during her past time. She has hopes of publishing a book someday and dreams of becoming a geneticist when she grows up.

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Fashion book takes a serious look at street wear

What works and what doesn't—that should be enough to get you going

By Paul Palmero
Student contributor, CSAF

"FASHION IS a business, but street fashion can be an art," says Marvin Jozef Antell, Stylist's editor in chief, talking about the gist of his new book, "Street Style: The New NYLON Book of Global Style."

A lovely sequel to the magazine's successful "Street" four years ago, "Street Style" once again reawakens the passions of the fashion conscious style pilgrim.

The book features the best street styles from modernist powerhouse New York, London and Tokyo, to newcomers Sao Paulo, Los Angeles, Montreal and Stockholm. Each city is profiled by showcasing how to every day-ness put a spin on fashion.

And it doesn't get any more intense than envisioning such "model"-minded cosmopolitan, epic philosophy and style icons, among others. The result is a heartening compilation of over 250 colored photos of personal style and pop culture that transcend the runways.

Fashion may be loved, but street fashion seems to dawn to what works and what doesn't. That should be enough to get you going.

"Street Style: The New NYLON Book of Global Style" is now available at Powerbooks.

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

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'Potter' leads holiday releases

LOS ANGELES—It's going to be "better" business this holiday season at the movies. One of Hollywood's biggest franchises is wearing an end. Others are returning after long absences. Still, many Tinseltown reinvestors are taking baby steps toward becoming three-time brand-of-upgrade.

"Well, any of those, it's the smooth one rule: It goes without saying that if it works well commercially, and if there's a following, a sequel is almost inevitable," outlined Will Prescott, who provides the voice of the little character in the animated comedy, "Megamind," which launched the busy holiday movie season.

Other streaming movies and franchises remainders this month and in December include "Little Fockers," sounding the "Meet the Parents" gang; the CS Lewis fantasy, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader"; "Yogi Bear," a big-screen take on the TV cartoon; "Gulliver's Travels," resurrecting Jonathan Swift's classic to modern times, and the science-fiction follow-up, "Tron: Legacy."

Of course, the holiday heavyweight is the movie-last big-screen adventure of the world's favorite boy wizard: "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the final book in JK Rowling's fantasy phenomenon.

Greater urgency

The finale stock Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and pals, Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint), on the road toward a last showdown with evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes).

After spending the last decade—roughly half their lives—on the "Harry Potter" films, the young stars felt greater urgency to cutoff time with a big finish, Radcliffe said: "We owe it to our supporters as much as to ourselves to do a fantastic job on these last films. We know we've got this incredibly magnificent last hurrah, and we know that many people will see the films, and rather than frightening us, it just inspired us to make it the best we could."

Other holiday highlights:

Partnering after a six-year absence are Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro in "Little Fockers," the third installment in the "Meet the Parents" comedy series.

Back after a 10-year gap is a trilogy in "Tron," with Jeff Bridges reprising his role in a computer genius trapped in a deadly video game world. Original reality "Tron: Legacy" features Garrett Hedlund as Bridges' son on a search for his missing father.

Bridges also plays Rooster Cogburn, a role originated by John Wayne, for a new take on "True Grit." Joel and Ethan Coen direct, and Matt Damon costars in the Western about a decadent girl who hires a tough marshal to track her father's killer.

Prison break

Russell Crowe is an average guy planning a spin as bandit in "The Next Three Days," the latest from director Paul Haggis, who made 2005 Academy Awards champ, "Crash." Crowe plays a college lecturer resorting our unsalvation in prison security, to free his wife (Elizabeth Banks) for a murder she claims she didn't commit.

Mandy Moore lets her hair down to Rapunzel, the fairy-tale princess whose long locks are her ticket out of imprisonment in a tower, in Disney's animated musical "Tangled."

Christina Aguilera plays a waitress singing to join the flashy musical owners at the club where she works in "Burlesque," which costars Cher, Stanley Tucci, Kristen Bell and Julianne Hough.

Gwyneth Paltrow's a country-music star fresh out of rehab and trying

POTTER 12

GRACE WATSON AND RADCLIFFE Lee chambers with Lord Voldemort. a

Gabby needs more mature roles

By Nestor U. Torre

IF GABBY Concepcion wants to effect a good comeback on the big, he has to do better than he portrayed in his recent horror flick, "Pitak Honor." The film simply didn't come up with the goods as far as genuinely chilling, haunt-worthy thriller are concerned.

Dalit ko: Bilib ni G. Gabby shouldn't be ripped for the production's insufficiencies. And the film does have some bright spots, like its plot concern about a TV reality challenge show that requires some ambitious, young people to live in a haunted house to win a million bucks.

But, the way in which that promising concept is fleshed out (talk about an array of cynicism, believability and real terror, as the viewer is often left confounded rather than terrified).

Character

As for Gabby's lead portrayal, it fails to be dynamic and absorbing because (among other things) he's miscast as a "quiet investigator" or ghostbuster. He looks the unsavvy and "unassertive" for such a character, as his scenes come off as predictable instead of insightful and "connected" to a world beyond co-bosses on one.

To make his comeback bid more effective and successful, Gabby should accelerate his handler to find projects for him that are better tailored to his "mature leading man" persona. Horror films are simply a daunting and unpredictable choice if that his strongest suit.

What could work for Gabby may be a romantic drama that

CONCEPCION: Unpredictable decision

features two couples—one young, the other mature—who get involved with each other in unexpected and shifting combinations of relationships that say a lot about the confounding vagaries of love, passion and human nature.

Each of the four stars involved would have challenging and textured roles to play, and Gabby would have a better opportunity to steal his mature thespic stuff.

Screen persona

It really is about time for him to no longer try to pass himself off as a "fresh young" actor. Sir, he's enlisted for looks, but viewers know that his daughter, KC, is already in her early or mid-20s, so that defines their psychological expectations of Gabby's screen persona now.

Given the right material, Gabby could still make it as a mature or mentoring one—hot, astute and realistic discovering a lot.

It would also help if he distanced himself from daughter KC and ex-wife Sharon Cuneta.

GABBY 12

Michael Jackson's children recall pop-star dad

JACKSON: Took his kids to environments and was "the best role model ever."

CHICAGO—Michael Jackson's children and mother could see a recent episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that they're still learning to cope with his death a year and a half after the pop star overdosed at a rented mansion here.

Jackson's oldest children, 13-year-old Prince and 12-year-old Paris, said there's adjusting well to private school, although from younger brother, Blanket, 8, is still home-schooled. The children have been living with grandmother Katherine Jackson, who is their guardian, since their father's death in June 2009.

In the prepared interview, Katherine and Blanket, whose given name is Prince Michael Jackson II, is the first time women to attend school next year, when he'll be in fourth grade. The children were taped in the back seat backyard with several cousins and spoke about their memories of their father.

Birth name

Prince, whose birth name is Michael Joseph Jackson Jr., said he and his father often walked the beach and spoke to the swimming, drinking Coca-Cola and eating Skittles or Snickers. Their said he took her to art museums and was "the best role ever."

Katherine said she wants to give the children as normal a childhood as possible, and is more lenient than Michael, who made the children wear veils in public. Paris said she veils weren't always comfortable, but that when they wear them no "others are went out without our dad, nobody would recognize us," and she appreciated that he was trying to protect them. "I think no one understands what a good father he was," Blanket assured.

Katherine also told Winfrey that she believes her son was addicted to plastic surgery and once even asked his surgeon to personal than he'd open.

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Katherine also told Winfrey that she believes her son was addicted to plastic surgery and once even asked his surgeon to personal than he'd open and on Blanket's nose if he were asked for another surgery. She said the vets concerned that his nose kept getting smaller and that it looked "like a toothpick in our nose." She said her son was insecure about his looks, and "once they made up his nose it got his nose done."

Jackson's fellas, Joe, also appeared in a brief interview with his wife and denied to Winfrey that he had beaten his children, as Winfrey had told Rodney in a 1993 interview. Joe was heckled by his wife, who said, "You might as well admit it." Joe acknowledged whipping them with a strap to keep them out of trouble. AP

Tami Monsod sets her priorities

MONSOD: The acclaimed theater actress finds her first dance in Baroque film.

By Rica Arevalo

WE HAVE been catching up with Tami Monsod in theater for a long time now. When we learned that she was directing "The Book of Antipasto," a play commissioned by her colleagues at Dulaang UP, we knew that we just had to make time to see her work as a director. We weren't disappointed. It was like watching a few episodes of "Glee," where the mentor brought out the best in her students.

The play within a play, about juvenile students and a hapless, cigar-puffing Greek heroine, was a showcase for student actors. Jamie de Venecia (Goo de Venecia III's son), Adam Mc. Sandoval and Jackie Mendoza, who's a member of the national weightlifting team.

Boundless energy

Tami has been teaching for the past. She directs, "As a theater artist, I have worked with directors, Anton Juan, Jonathan Sanchez, Bebe Buenaventura, Bobi Tinio, Ilian Guingona, Jaime del Mundo, Bobby Garcia and Jose Estrella.

"But, my greatest learning experiences are with my students. Teenagers are at the brink of adulthood, and their energy is boundless! They take directions well. Compared to professionals, you can experiment with teenagers, because they're genuinely excited to be full of love. Instead of getting discouraged, they get more."

What were her early influences in theater? She states, "When I was a child, I would watch my mom (Judith Monsod) in her plays at Ateneo Grounds. That might have been kind of learning. I wasn't interested in theater then, until I went to college (Mt. Holyoke College). I took James Cunningham's acting classes. He taught me techniques in acting."

When she came back to Manila, she was asked to direct a play like mentor. "I was happy to direct a one-act play with Jeanne Goulbon, Bor Alcuaz and Pen Medina. I didn't know anything, it was crazy—but, I got hooked! I worked at CCP as a props girl, just to get enough money for coffee and cigarettes. That was really what I wanted.

Then, I directed a Guinness church play, which I did for seven years."

Soon, we will see Tami act in her film debut, "In Number Eleven (At the Name of the Mother)," under Will Fredo's direction. Her being a flamenco dancer landed her the role.

Adjustments

What adjustments did she make as an actress? "I play a mother in it. I don't mind! I had to ask my mind to teach me how to act more. The next day, I was dancing and acting it. I also had to memorize in Tagalog. It was a scary experience, but Will didn't make me feel bad about it."

How did she learn flamenco?

MONTAGE

Macau Songwriting Competition winners announced

TEODORO (FOURTH FROM RIGHT): Going to Macau on the winning side song.

JULIUS TEODORO, a 16-year-old second year computer engineering student of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, is jetting to Macau on the wings of a song.

The budding musician and songwriter won the top plum in the annual Macau Songwriting Competition—the grand prize of a free four-day/three-night holiday package to Asia's newest gaming destination.

Teodoro's entry, "Macau, Land of Joy," got the judges' nod because of its bold English lyrics that "truly showcased entertainers and the melody is pleasant to the ears. The song includes to Macau's commitment to preserve its past as a gaming mecca, while at the same time, looking ahead to cater and excel, while remaining it is to stay with the 21st century.

Second prize winner was Jay Michael Tee, a 21-year-old Manila-based information technology student from the Technological University of the East. His piece is "Good Day."

The top two winning song-positions will be performed and is arranged, sung by a soloist or singer, and recorded. The songs will be performed by Macau recording company for the Macau Government Tourist Office-Philippines (MGTO).

Tanghalang Ateneo

Tanghalang Ateneo's next production is the dramatization of a philosophical work, "The Confessions of St. Augustine" billed, "Confessiones: Isang onsay ni Pepper ni San Agustin," as translated by Fr. Roque Ronzuli, SJ. Directed by Fr. Ronzuli, Carlos Quirino the formation men on Nov. 26-28, 29-27 and Dec. 1-4 at the Rizal Mini-Theater. For more information, contact tanghalangateneo@gmail.com or call 594-1220-8833.

'Surviving Death'

Starting Nov. 11 at 10 p.m., Discovery Channel's "Surviving Death" examines the extraordinary experiences of people who have died and returned to life. These near-death experiences have led to new medical breakthroughs in treating patients.

All Music' and 'He Rentals' offers

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'In Your Eyes'

Mac Alejandro's "In Your Eyes," starring Claudine Barretto, Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin, is now available on VCD and DVD. The locale plot: Claudine and Richard, three conflicted young people who are caught up in a web of love and lies.

'The Mentalist'

The second season of "The Mentalist," directed by Emmy-winning Jon Amiel and starring Simon Baker plays Patrick Jane, a former like psychic who now solves crimes for the California Bureau of Investigation.

BAKER: Portrays a former like psychic.

Jo D Celebrity Fruitcakes

Every weekend this month at Norwell Powerplant Mall's Bakers Dozen, Jo D Lee's Celebrity Fruitcakes are on sale. They are also for sale at Rock

Win some, lose some in 'Petrang Kabayo'

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME STARS' recent career moves can teach other luminaries lessons, pro and con, on how to program their own shots for possible for maximum effect.

On top of our list in this regard this month is new comedy star Vice Ganda's successful bid to his first solo starrer, "Petrang Kabayo." The comedy-hosting flick suited his "bawdy" signature stunning gag text, and his unique, scene-by-"pun-stoner" wit was also productively showcased.

Overly familiar

But, what can Vice Ganda do for an encore? Now that he's a star, he can't just keep doing the "bawdy" bit forever and a day. And, as his daily stint on "Showtime" are indicating, his zombie publicists are also starting to feel too overly familiar to be consistently delightful.

...That's the trouble with success—it often paints you into an ultimately predictable corner that ends up limiting your prospects. "Vice" needs to come up with a new shtick by persons that can take his career beyond "bouncing around," to keep viewers bemused and surprised.

'Sizzle' factor

What could that be? He would be perfect as a regular "banelere" on Edu Manzano's "Sine Tido" game show, if contrarian

GANDA. What can he do for an encore?

of considerations can be worked out. The show needs more strongly witty results to up its "sizzle" factor, and Vice can provide that, no sweat at all.

What about movies? It would be loads of fun to see Vice Ganda squaring off against Eugene Domingo's similarly attractive screen characters, or his sarcastic tat. And, a comedy about gay beauty pageants would also be right up his alley.

Mincut

Interactively, "Petrang Kabayo" may have boosted Vice's career; but it's step backwards for Luis Manzano. He's sorely unbelievable and miscast as a cocksure and the movie lead's sort of "romantic" interest.

Whatever possessed Luis to accept this project? He may be good at comedy, but his talents in this flick are more ridiculous than truly funny.

Kris simply have to realize that they can't do anything or everything with only sheer gumption and mashup "Fun" going for them.

Luis also has a visible career as a dramatic-romantic leading man, which suffers when he plays the fool and silly clown every now and then. You really can't have it all, and greater selectivity and better judgment are clearly in order.

Gabby...

From page G1

Yes, a movie which either or both of them would help his career—but only for the short term. If his wants a longer comeback, he has to make it on his own as a mature dramatic and/or comedic actor.

If reference to Jil and Dennis keep getting into the picture, they would only make it that much more difficult for viewers to focus on Gabby as he is now, with his spotted past and challenge of making it again in Philippine show biz as a mature entertainer.

'Potter'

From page G1

to revive her career on row with a rising singer Gerson Hubbard in "Country Living."

Rose Witherspoon figures in a love triangle in "How Do You Know?," costarring Owen Wilson, Paul Rudd and Jack Nicholson in the latest mix of comedy and drama from director James L. Brooks.

Traveler

"The Tourist" pairs up Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie in a thriller about a broken-hearted traveler swept up in danger with a mysterious woman in Europe.

"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" returns some of the young Dresmaster cites to C.S. Lewis' famous realm, where they embark on a maritime adventure with old pal, Prince Caspian.

And, Jack Black stars the little people in "Gulliver's Travels," playing a modern guy who is washed up in a lost land...where the citizens are only three inches tall. AP

WITHERSPOON. Figures in a love triangle in "How Do You Know?"

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FORD (WITH KEATON, LEFT): Dry humor

Harrison Ford dishes on news, family life and socks

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Rubyn V. Sepulves

LOS ANGELES—Harrison Ford was wearing colorful socks that looked like the bright ones his grumpy character in "Morning Glory" sports. They are from the movie, Harrison confirmed.

"It's in my contract that I get to keep my wardrobe," he revealed with a wry smile in an interview at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York. "It's that simple. The rest is from the movie, too."

In the Roger Michell-directed comedy "Morning Glory," Harrison is Mike Pomeroy, a snarling former evening news anchor who is forced, by producer Becky (Rachel McAdams), to co-host a fluffy morning show with Diane Keaton's Colleen Peck. "Pomeroy is such a stuffy kind of guy that it was nice to have some suggestion that Ford's was controlling who's going on with him," Harrison explained. "He's a character, so I wanted to give a little visual indications of that." Hence, the flashy socks to various hues and stripes.

The actor ditched his coiled dry humor at this interview. Asked where he finds money, the beloved scowling hero answers, Harrison answered, "I still trust Walter Cronkite, even more since he's been dead. The ritual people are the most trustworthy. I admired Walter and people who really work to get a story. I admire Diane Sawyer and Brian Williams. I love listening to news on the radio, because there's none of the distraction of pictures. I listen to National Public Radio and NBC News."

Other sources

On his other sources of news, Harrison shared, "I read the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. I also read USA today, because I want to know what other people are thinking. I check in with CNN. I step in the Fox News Channel's as unbiased as anyone."

In one scene, CBS' Mackey Sasko and Bob Schieffer and MSNBC's Chris Matthews make cameos as drinking buddies of Harrison's character. What did they talk about in between takes? "Radio stuff, the kind that old men tell one another when they meet for the first time," Harrison said with his famous lopsided grin. "It was at the Jockey Club in the middle of the day, but it was nonetheless the Jockey Club. It was fun talking to them! It wasn't all about jokes. There were some serious stories from Sasko and Schieffer."

We were surprised to hear that Harrison and Diane had not met each other until this project. "I didn't know her before this movie so I was delighted to have the opportunity to work with her," Harrison admitted. "She was a lot of fun to work with." Diane's character, a former beauty queen, is reminiscent of Diane Sawyer, while Harrison's Mike evokes Charles Gibson, wrote Shelley Ross, a former morning show producer who worked with Sawyer and Gibson, in her blog for tarnovosh.com.

"I have great respect for the work that Diane has done over the years," Harrison added about the actress. "I was very interested to meet her. I have many friends in common and wanted to preserve boundaries. That's what we talked about at first, more than movies. She's strong and very intelligent. She has clear ideas."

While Harrison and Diane are fun to watch as squabbling cohosts, maybe "Diane Sawyer" is Rachel McAdams' movie. "It is the story of the character Rachel plays," the actor explained. "Part of Rachel's great talent is that she's able to do this movie comedy and, at the same time, she keeps a clear emotional reality behind it."

Grilled fish

Harrison exudes a yummy-looking vitality in the film, but at home, he's more of "to-hustle-to-maintain kind of guy. I like to cook, but I don't like to spend a lot of time doing it. I go for grilled fish or meat, uncomplicated stuff—and that's about it."

Talk of home led to Calista Flockhart, whom he married last year. He joked that his name now is Mr. Harrison Flockhart Ford. Asked if Calista has converted to fashion, Harrison, who's French, replied, "Not yet, but I'm working on it."

"I don't mind if you write that," Harrison added. "It will help." He quipped, "It makes me sound interesting."

"I have five children, all of them are well and happy in their lives," shared Harrison, who is naturally reticent about his personal life. "I'm enjoying what I do and the change outside of my business that I do." Well, everything seems fine in the Flockhart-Ford household, except for one thing. "I have two dogs," Mr. Indiana Jones disclosed. "One I like, who likes me, too. And, one I don't like, and it doesn't like me either. This little mutt thinks it's the sole protector of my 9-year-old son. So, at night, when we're all getting ready for sleep and I'm putting my son to bed, the mutt is there, and every time I reach for it, it tries to bite me!"

The title of Harrison's upcoming movie, "Cowboys & Aliens," brought up "The Fugitive Kid," his 1975 comedy western with Gene Wilder. "That was a different kind of alien—an undocumented one that Gene played," Harrison said with an amused look. "These are real aliens in 'Cowboys & Aliens.' It was fun to work with Jon in 'The Fugitive Kid.' Every time the director, Robert Aldrich, looked at me, he was thinking about how unhappy he was that he didn't have John Wayne instead."

Cowboy movie

"Cowboys & Aliens" is indeed an entirely different animal, which is destined to set action-fi geeks at least movie, directed by Jon Favreau, and costarring Daniel Craig. Ultimately, it's "a cowboy movie," according to Harrison, but "aliens come and things happen. It was a fascinating experience. It was full of surprises. I enjoyed working with Jon Favreau, who's a very intelligent guy who knows about the way things work and his audiences."

An interview with Harrison wouldn't be complete without a question thrown on the possibility of another "Indiana Jones" adventure. "If it's called Indiana Jones and ..." something, I'll be in it," he replies.

"The character that Elisa Caillouet plays (in the last Indiana Jones movie) is called Mac Jones, so I'm not surprised George Lucas is working on a prequel or an idea," Harrison explained. "It's common fashion, and if George Steven (Spielberg) and I like it, I'd love to do another one!"

In addition to his well-known passion for flying, the actor actively fights for the interest of preserved areas for the environment. "I'm involved with Conservation International, of which he is vice chair of the board, for 20 years. He recently spoke at the International Geneva Board Biodiversity in Nagoya, Japan.

"I'm not terribly optimistic, but I still write letters about doing what ever I can to advance the agenda of protecting the environment," Harrison admitted. "The more people are educated, the more they understand the immediate threat to their future. They'll find it in their self-interest to become involved in protecting nature. Nature doesn't need people. People need nature!"

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Films...

From page G3

to truly inspirational.

"Bluebird of Happy" Glory-Ford teaches at a violent South Bronx school and tries to knock some sense and decency into his rough students' thick heads.

"The Miracle Worker" Anne Bancroft as Annie Sullivan, the never-say-never teacher who finally gets through the blind and deaf Helen Keller—and transforms her life.

"The Great Debaters," Denzel Washington as a teacher who challenges prejudice to get his debating team in line off with Harvard University.

Key lessons

"Mr. Holland's Opus" Richard Dreyfuss portrays a music teacher who teaches kids to live and love music—and learns some key lessons himself.

"My Fair Lady," Sir Harrison teaches Audrey Hepburn's character, Eliza Doolittle, to pass herself off as a lady—and she proceeds to tutor him in the overarching targets of love, as well.

Tami...

From page G2

She continues, "I had a bad romantic experience. So, I resolved to try something new and liberating. I took a trip to Sevilla, where I joined a dance flamenco class. For the next four weeks, I went to Spain to take classes. I was bad, and the teachers didn't like me—but, I didn't care. The flamenco is very theatrical, because there's a lot of acting that goes with it."

Those days, Tami dreams, the projects she artistes. "I'm a mother now. If a project would take me away from my son, I believe he a very good one? The Facebook warns reflects how fulfilling the year has been for Tami. "I successful and fulfilling quarter has just concluded. Thank you in the universe! It's time again to recharge: motherhood, friendships, phone, camera, laptop—and myself!"

IN THIS ISSUE
■ **Harrison Ford dishes on news,** family life and socks /G4

SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

Triple treat

By Rito P. Asilo

WE'VE BEEN lamenting the dearth of good movies being thrown to our cinephiliac lately. With the release of the edgy actioner, "Unstoppable," the cautionary rom-com, "Easy A," and the exceptional love-romance, "Let Me In," this week is a happy exception.

Inspired by a true incident that happened nine years ago, Tony Scott's "Unstoppable" will drive viewers to the edge of their seats as locomotive engineer Frank (Denzel Washington), and rookie conductor Will (Chris Pine), race against time to stop an unmanned, 39-car runaway train carrying highly-combustible molten phenol and roaring at 70 miles per hour—before it decimates an entire town of about a million residents!

"Unstoppable" is "Speed" on a train, characterized by zippy action sequences, breathtaking stunts, a smattering of comedy, and many grounding character moments.

Despite a throwaway side story involving schoolchildren being incarcerated aboard, Scott narrates viewers' emotions by crafting a taut and tightly-edited thriller, anchored by the compelling performances of its lead actors.

Washington (playing a widower who doesn't know how to reach out to his distant daughters), Pine (whose character is going through a messy divorce), and Rosario Dawson (who stares down from the train station's control booth) seem to purposely link help keep the suicidally intimate and empathetic, making the movie more than just about a train wreck waiting to happen.

In the duly the threatening odors of their arrogant brains, Frank and Will rely on luck, the laws of physics and each other to steer seemingly insurmountable odds. "Unstoppable" is your one-way ticket to action's apex!

'Easy A'

In Will Gluck's dark homage parody, "Easy A," high school student, Olive Penderghast (the irresistible Emma Stone), turns popularity into infamy when a white lie she makes up—about her sexual exploits with an imaginary lover—spreads like wildfire.

Refusing to talk about the nasty rumors, the erstwhile virgin instead embraces her "literary" reputation and helps perpetrators of it to slip shenanigans to shortcutters—by exacting cut scores for gifts in order!

But, when the resulting avalanche begins to get to her and threatens to derail her budding romance with the stars of her chosen (Penn Badgley), Olive stands and, simultaneously, her career doesn't come with a match needed only-you!

Fun, fast-paced and fascinating-to-a-tee, Gluck's rom-com puts a contemporary spin on Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter." Further boosting the film's freshness and narrative concern are its feisty and circumstanced characters, delicately depicted by talented and charming actors.

There's the dreamy variety concert (Badgley) who isn't swayed by gossip; the flamboyant partner-in-crime friend (Amanda Bynes) and her Christmas-sticker boyfriend (Cam Gigandet), the well-meaning English teacher (Thomas Haden Church) and his "flawed" guidance counselor wife (Lisa Kudrow), the conflicted gay classmate (Dan Byrd).

TURN TO G

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Intelligent exchanges enliven 'Karambola'

By Ronald G. Mangahas

LOCSIN. His and his colleagues stand light on commercialization.

"KARAMBOLA," TV5's commentary show aired Mondays to Fridays (8-10 a.m.) on dwAD 882, says a lot about how we formulate opinions about what goes on around us. It uses a lot of humor, points to positive things despite gloomy scenarios, and occasionally vents angry emotions in the hope of clarifying issues.

Listening to "Karambola" is like attending your regular "tsismisan." There are testosterone-charged smiles, caustic remarks and detailed explanations about issues—and, happily they're done intelligently.

The show is hosted by six erudite gentlemen, Alvin Capino, Jonathan dela Cruz, Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin, Sonny Fortaleza, Ed Javier and Benjo Benedlo, whose exchanges enlighten listeners about stories behind the news. However, when they all talk at the same time, you know where the "karambola" is coming from.

Format

We've been following the show for several weeks now and have found many good things about it. Not only are the hosts experts in their respective fields, they're also articulate. This is the main strength of the program, because a commentary format has to be hosted by people who have earned the right to "opinionate." And, since most of them come from journalism or the legal profession, they're able to shed light on controversial issues.

We've heard them discuss the controversial Reproductive Health Bill, the PAL labor strike, the recent Ampatuan elections, P-Noy's visit to the United States, Carlos Celdran's one-night incarceration after the "Padre Damaso" brouhaha, and speculation this fitting's sculptor is Filipino in Vietnam—and those discussions were a sweet mix of wit, analysis and humor.

On the debit side, the hosts sometimes go overboard with their jokes and comments, to the point of overpolluting the airwaves with their lewdness. Although not censored, there be being polite in their phone-in games.

They also tend to disrupt the report of their traffic girl, who tells them, "Hinguin e ya mass also." And, while we understand that Locsin is more comfortable speaking in English, we hope that he would assume Tagalog more often, because "Karambola" is a Filipino program, after all.

Mendoza, Legarda collaborate on global-warming docu

By Rony Linarez

LEGARDA. Producer and host of "Balon."

DIRECTOR BRILLANTE Mendoza and environmentalist Loren Legarda recently celebrated Earth Day's 40th year with the launch of "Balon (Downpour)," a 30-minute documentary on global warming, produced and narrated by Legarda.

Footage

The eight-segment docu, which captures the damaging effects of climate change by using video footage of typhoons and floods, brought the internationally acclaimed filmmaker to places like Barlis, Benguet; Patnos in Bulakan, Laguna; Avenida in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan and the San Roque Dam in Pangasinan.

The film opens with a piece of trash thrown by a boy during a picnic with his parents, a segment given viewers a glimpse of Earth's atmosphere, where greenhouse gases are formed and work. Fed by pollutants caused by human activities, such as motor vehicle use, greenhouse emissions as a result of modern technology and industrialization.

Changes

Another segment shows the changes the planet undergoes, as triggered by increasing global temperature, as well as the increase in frequency, duration and intensity of weather events like excessive rain and extreme heat. The concluding portion offers solutions that ordinary Filipinos can apply in their daily lives.

Triple treat

From page 01

Byrd), and Olive's liberal parents (Stanley Tucci, Patricia Clarkson). When the credits roll, you'll learn the Beanes mismated—and enlightened!

'Let Me In'

Matt Reeves' eerily creepy "Let Me In" is a faithful adaptation of Tomas Alfredson's outstanding 2008 Swedish chiller, "Let The Right One In"—though it feels a little slower and less claustrophobic than the latter. Just the same, it is one of the year's most provocative films.

Set in 1983, the movie dramatizes how a bullied 12-year-old boy, Owen (Kodi Smit-McPhee), finds friendship and protection (and romance!) when he moves his pale, toad-face neighbor, Abby (Chloe Moretz), who turns out to be—a vampire! Be forewarned, however: Their love story isn't the stuff that Edward Cullen and Bella Swan's romantic dreams are made of!

Toting the concepts of sin and retribution to spice up its moody exposition, Reeves' production leaves only too well how brilliantly it would be to temper with its predecessor's pitch perfect tone and moral musings, as the feeling of dread and crawling doom is tortured from beginning to end.

And, it makes you wonder: What happens when Owen and Abby's romantic fascination with each other begins to wane? Will Owen let his fanged paramour's new mood?

Fr. Corapi urges viewers to stop 'going with the flow'

By Lilia Bautista-Alvarez

IT'S EASY to see when the persons and energy of world-renowned preacher, Fr. John Corapi, is coming from every time he delivers his talks on EWTN....he heard the word back to the forth after leading a rabbi life in his youth. He gives viewers good bumps to his talks about sin and its consequences.

Recently, we caught his two-part lecture series, "Surrender to Her An Option" and the "Power of the Holy Eucharist," to which he took to task his audience for being ignorant of their faith.

In his becoming years, he blamed bad Catholic teaching or indoctrination in America, saying that immoral theology was being taught by those in charge of the Catholic formation of children and communities.

CORAPI. "Giving in to the enemy isn't an option."

Social maladies

The popular preacher attributed many of the world's maladies to the idea of "going with the flow" in relation to young people, New Age concepts, the occult, and other social maladies such as substance addiction and abortions, which affect even teachers of the clergy. Moreover, he said that the world's woes are due to Catholics' complacency.

Fr. Corapi likened spiritual combat with battles in the field, where one should help a fellow comrade by wearing an EWTN tshirt who sees another "spiritual weapons and armor"—namely, prayer, prayer books, knowledge of the truth, and repentance.

"Giving in to the enemy isn't an option" is Fr. Corapi's battlecry. It's a fight to earth fight. ing for, but it's a no-brainer! If I'm captured, I'll continue to resist," he attributed.

"Some of you have not gone to confession in a long time, and others are addicted to porn. But, we're all soldiers fighting in the army of God, helping others escape the bondages of sin! We can't call ourselves Catholic and commit those atrocities!"

His lectures always end with a standing ovation. He specializes up with listeners' concerns related to his personal experiences and conversion. Indeed, we've never seen a priest as frien as Fr. John Corapi!

Symposia on TV literacy

NATOL. Secretary general of dzosTV.

ANC/DTV is on its final leg of symposia on child-friendly viewership and TV literacy in Mindanao. It has just concluded a seminar in Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro, staged with the help of Iloilo Goldies Philippines.

Panelists

This meeting, Bataan City's Orion University is chairing four to dzosTV's cooperations, where child-rights advocates, Atty. Eric Maldoza, ANC/CBN vice president Jong Espinosa, former MTRCB chair Marilyn Laguardia and PDI's Bernie Dario are featured panelists along with dzosTV secretary general Meg Cruz Rimel.

The events will also be the final dzosTV screening for some 150 students from different TV stations. Generous assistance from Columbia's and Kapisa Reception has ensured the foundations through its previous activities.

Training program

Both symposia come in the heels of an advanced media production skills training program, staged for Plan Philippines in Tolobato City For Teenagers, 12 youth aged 9 to 16 were honed in photo and radio production skills. The yield was an impressive hamper swap of public service announcements, a photo exhibit, several MTVs and microdocumentaries on a variety of social issues.

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MILEY (PEYTON MONIQUE, LEFT). Displaced out in "This World Hurts."

EJ Salcedo comes home to pursue filmmaking

By Rica Arevalo

DIRECTOR EDWARD James Salcedo debuted his feature-length movie, "Third World Hopping" on Nov. 11 at the Sixth Cinema One Originals Digital Film Festival, which ended on Nov. 16 at Ayala Greenhills.

EJ studied in the United States in the '90s, but had to return to Manila when an article passed away. He thinks, "Growing up, I was happy-go-lucky. But, when I went to the US, I felt the racism. It toughened me up and made me realize that the world isn't a perfect place."

He says Miley is as a filmmaker trying to pursue his dream as a painter in New York City. He admits that the film's story is similar to his experiences. "I wanted to tell that story and the things I've learned from working as a copywriter. I have friends from advertising agencies who took on film jobs to help them finance."

Dreams

"But, what they really want to be are serious-book artists, painters and filmmakers? People have dreams but they don't pursue them, because they have bills to pay."

Miley is displaced to Salcedo's film. The new filmmaker recalls, "I stopped him of his being a marijuana addict. Here, Bala wears dirty nails holes. He is nonchalant, and has no hangs here."

What will moviegoers learn from his film? Salcedo replies, "Sometimes, it takes losing someone to find yourself." Jonney Miley in the end (or his) Sta. Maria, Rutland Quan and Melissa Morales.

ACCLAIMED production is the country's longest-running religious musical.

'Magnificat' auditions on Nov. 15

"MAGNIFICAT," the country's best-loved and longest-running religious musical, will go on a new performance tour early next year, and is auditioning for outstanding male and female actor-singers of all ages to join the cast. The auditions will be held at the Ayala Area Cinema, Plaza Hugo, Ilas. Ave., Manila on Nov. 15 at 10 a.m. Call 0929 3269424.

"Magnificat," which tells the story of the Blessed Virgin Mary's life in the context of her son Jesus Christ's earthly mission, is a sung-through musical in Filipino composed by Ryan Cayabyab and written and directed by Mother Trece. It has been performed all over the country to great acclaim, and has been hailed for its effective and insightful depiction of the greatest story ever told.

Its new performance tour has been prompted by requests from both new and repeat spectators in different parts of the country. If you want the religious musical to be performed in your parish, neighborhood, office, school, convent in English and patois, as it has been presented in the past, call Ayala at 0922 889 0631.

SMITH: Has become a total sensation with "Whip My Hair."

Willow Smith wants to emulate her famous parents

NEW YORK—When Willow Smith explains why she answered the music business, she talks about expressing her individuality and wanting to help people with her message. But, she also acknowledges that she wants to be famous like her "mommy and daddy."

She's well on her way now. The 9-year-old daughter of Will and Jada Pinkett Smith has become a viral sensation with her first single, "Whip My Hair." The official version of the video has gotten more than seven million views on YouTube; there was even a popular video that mashed the song with Jessica Sweet's "I Love My Hair" video.

Willow's budding career, which made its debut on iTunes, is also being played to chart, and she's due to release her first album next year.

Individuality

In a recent phone interview, Willow said she was "very surprised" about the success of the song, but said she thought its message was resonating with listeners. "I think it's individuality they're searching for."

Willow first appeared in the limelight three years ago, playing the daughter of her father's character in the Tom Hanks movie, "I Am Legend." At the time, it seemed as if she'd follow in the acting footsteps of her parents, much like her brother, Jaden, who earlier this year had his own smash movie with the remake of "The Karate Kid."

Message

But, Willow was more influenced by her parents' musical careers. Will is a Grammy winner who got his start rapping, and Jada has toured the country as part of a metal band.

"I would go to my mom with them, march them, and I'd be like, 'Oh my gosh, that's what I want to do,'" she recalled. "I want to make a difference — and help people."

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SATURDAY Special

Tit for tat on weeknight television

SHARING LOVE WITH REVILLAME: "Secret weapon" revealed.

By Nestor U. Torre

TALK ABOUT television's being the country's most "eventful" entertainment this year, developments on the small tube have been happening at a breakneck speed this month.

Here, "Willing Willie" joined the traditional stronghold of newscasts on the 5:30 p.m. television time slot. There, ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol" beefed up its viewer appeal to counteract that TV5 gambit by bringing back its "big guns," veteran anchors. Noli de Castro and Korina Sanchez, starting last Nov. 8.

There, Willie Revillame upped and announced that, starting that very same night, former presidential girlfriend, Shalani Soledad, would be co-hosting "Willing Willie" with him!

Even people who don't like Willie have to concede that his show's surprise "separation" has stolen at least some of the attendant momentum to "TV Patrol" and its infusion of "star" anchors. Shalani may not be a show biz star, but her storied history connection, even if no longer directly relevant, is an attention-grabber all its own.

Reasons

So, between "TV Patrol" and "Willing Willie" last Monday, Nov. 8, which one did more viewers opt to view, for various relevant and irrelevant reasons? The answer to that question can only be answered by the evening's TV ratings, which should already be available by the time you read this.

—And what about GMA-7's "24 Oras," the third 6:30 p.m. program involved in this three-way competition—what "secret weapon" or new deal-making gambit could it unveil in the next few days or weeks?

Reaction

To date, GMA-7's reaction to TV5 and ABS-CBN's dramatic and even shocking moves has been relatively above-it-all, except for coming out with some full-page ads and to save in some newspaper articles that, except on weekends, "24 Oras" will begin airing at 6:30 p.m.

But, that was before the Shalani and Noli-Korina moves took effect. Has the lay of the land changed since then?

—And, what do the viewers have to say about all this? Do they approve of these blinking developments and changes, are they excited by them—or are they ticked off, because they muddle up the TV picture even further?

FANS' DAY

News programs are losing their impartiality

By Andy Bax

OUR HUNCH that viewers do care about what they see on TV has proven to be true. Our readers' observations this week.

Fin Mejia Asman, development research specialist: "TV networks should aim to give the best to the viewing public by casting actors who act well. Sometimes, however, they put greater premium on popularity rather than acting ability.

"A good example is Isaac Munoz Pangalan, who has been doing TV shows and movies for some time now. Not to be outdone is his blustery libretto, who librettist has a movie to her name. But, Munoz is better off in the boxing ring. The same goes for beauty queens, although some of them have been working hard to rise above difficult thespic challenges, like Gloria Diaz and Shiraz Quisumbing."

RICQUIAD: Should stick to what he does best.

Format

Ann Aguilla, graphic designer: "TV networks should do away with tabloid-style news reporting. Since Edsa 1, this has become the popular format. Stars programs like 'Newsweek,' 'BBC News' and 'Bruneday' have either been overshadowed or replaced by less objective programs. 'TV Patrol' began bringing the news to people as if they were called from tabloids, then GMA followed suit.

"Initially, the idea seemed OK because news reports were delivered in Filipino, and the masses found them more understandable and interesting. Later, however, it got more informal and less informative. It regularly features party crimes, sex and perversion, clues like its origins, weird (now ethnic) people with disability like the 'batang ziyokay' or 'batang tyanggiki at olmerigo.' They are nationalist debates among lawmakers and political figures and news in sari-sari differences.

"News programs have become promotional machineries for upcoming movies or TV programs, turning newscasters into show biz reporters. As a result, more relevant issues end up more like fillers.

"These days, some anchors lack the dignified countenance

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Rivalry brought excitement to lovely siblings' careers

By Bobs Cervantes

DE HAVILLAND AND FONTAINE. The seasoned actors won Best Actress Oscars for "The Heiress" and "Sisipbus," respectively.

VIVIEN, I was young, one of my favorite actresses was Olivia de Havilland, reportedly loved Ryan's favorite leading lady. She was so acclaimed as the Tasmanian vixen Juliet. She was dark-haired, fine-featured and classically beautiful, which was why she was perfect as Lady Marian in "The Adventures of Robin Hood" and as Melanie in "Gone With the Wind."

It was said that Flynn carried a torch for her, although she didn't reciprocate his amorous attention because she found him too self-centered.

When De Havilland left the Orient to score Joan Fontaine (in "Suspicion"), their sibling rivalry worsened, and the former demanded more publicity for herself, for obvious. She already had the distinction of winning two Academy Awards, for her performances in "To Each His Own" and "The Heiress"—a rare feat in the field.

Sequel

As a side note, Bette Davis and Joan Crawford hated each other, especially after competing in "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" Joan openly campaigned for Anne Baxter® to stop Bette from taking home an unprecedented third Oscar. When "Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte," the sequel to the

MONZE DIN-PALEMA
Digudiad

Readers and stars react

By Nestor U. Torre

WE GET feedback from many readers, and we love it. Positive or negative, it shows that, contrary to some show biz people's current belief, the local entertainment audience is not blindly made up of parrots, shallow dolts, and to feel like a fool to say about the shows it watches.

We think these feedback is important, because it completes the communication process, and we urge more readers and viewers to send in their entertainment they get, so that show biz and broadcast people will be encouraged or forced (as the case may be) to do better work.

For starters, TV's man of the moment, Willie Revillame, received a lot of comments on him, his career and his comeback prospects.

Opinion

Thank you for all the words in your article last Saturday. I appreciate the information, as well as the opinion cited in your write-up. I am grateful that you have noticed my as a host and most especially as a person.

Again, thank you so much. I sincerely appreciate your genuine concern."

From Chippy Roy, host for Tonight about some positive television—then asked to generated: "I love 'Eat Bulaga!' But, for years, it's been a recurring gag on the show to call Wally Bayola as Fat or Sabá. The same goes for jokes about the 'mental deficiency' of Jenny Suárez. Even Allan K's face value. These cutting gags are ironic, yes—but, Dad doesn't make them right, does it? Since many people watch the show, tolerating the jokes makes it seem OK to some. I'm of 10, show-willed is constructive people.

JILLIAN E. Running gag

Name-calling

When children watch, they get the impression that it's OK to insult people. Isn't it true that one of the problems in our schools is bullying through verbal abuse and name-calling? I know that many kids develop low self-esteem because they are teased about the way they look.

"Even insulting 'jokes' are rife on other TV shows, as well. Why do we continued only the obvious and vulgar, when in fact personal 'humor-ous' insults are here come to take for granted could be even more appreciated?"

Finally, our recent news in "Willing Willie" versus the evening newsroom have prompted some readers to weigh in on the topic:

Bulacan Archie of Pasay City observes: "If Willie Revillame's show does better in the ratings on weekends, as TVE claims, it doesn't necessarily mean that viewers now prefer 'fun and games' over news and public affairs. We still like to keep on top of what's happening in the country and in the world.

Appeal

"And, a good thing can result from this: It will make for evening newscasts such kind of appeal to viewers like us. In particular, we want to see more international news and less crime stories, which aren't really 'news,' because the accidents, holdpersons and more reported on are nothing new."

From M. Correos of Makati City: "You have to hand it to Willie for knowing how to make headlines with his well-timed 'escapades,' like Thailand, headed for his comeback. It's just a sidetrack for him. Some politicos in TV, but she should be given some more time to get the hang of things."

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'DAGIM'

The movie in Joaquin Valdes' mind

By Rio F Asio

IT'S BEEN two years since we seen Mowie setay by Joaquin Pedro Valdes' Baljog-winning short, "Bilong."

This week, we're happy to note that the multi-talented senior director's genre-bending drama, "Dagim (Rain-clouds)," one of seven entries to the Sixth Cinema One Film Festival, follows up on that promise—and here!

"My film treats the unsung genre apart," Valdes shares. "It asks the question: What makes a monster? And, does it consider itself as such? This is where narrative innocence, renewal and innocence come to the fore, without disregarding the fact that I'm using a visual medium to tell my story."

VALDES. Reframing methods.

Disturbing tale

If you're tired of grainy photography and inferior sound from many local indies, you'll no doubt find Joaquin's aesthetic refreshing. He composes up crisp and visually arresting images that help set the mood and tone for his disturbing tale—and, given Joaquin's theatrical background, he tells it with a lot of flair! But, to viual points is just icing on "Dagim's" chemistically compelling cake.

Set in a fictional province in the early '90s, the metaphor-heavy production is drawn exhaustively by tightly woven narrative strands that follow two brothers, 14-year-old Jun (Marlon del Rosario) and 12-year-old Diego (Daniel Quintana), who come to terms with the mysterious disappearance of their father.

DIEGO, ROSARIO AND QUINTANA. Portray brothers who come to terms with the mysterious disappearance of their father.

Passive-aggressive

A fateful meeting with Lila, a beautiful 14-year-old mountain lass, takes Jun and Diego deep into the forest of Pamindita, where they meet a 12-man commercial tribe, headed by Lila's brother, Pedro (Mhyco Abaya). See, there's something "peculiar" about this passive-aggressive bunch of youngsters. They fight one another for fun, smoke pot, admire to a quasi philosophy and, even more disturbingly, they seem to have an affinity to—blood? What's happening here?

"Dagim" is a strong ensemble piece, anchored by the fine performances of Del Rosario, Quintana and Abaya, whose inherent character leads on the pain of his subordinates, Diego including. Here by the people who were supposed to love him, Duke expresses on the notion that the source of all evil is man himself. So, he feels that it's his "divine" duty to rid the world of the human "monster"!

Dog-eat-dog world

Joaquin enthuses, "What makes a monster or an enemy? The answers goes beyond what's literal. The chaos, dog-eat-dog world we live in has pushed us to the point where we take our frustration and hate unknown on each other."

"We're reduced to living like beasts. We no longer care about our fellowmen, because of our need to survive. These days, the most monstrous creatures we fear are the very people who are supposed to protect us!"

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BALIKAT SOLIDARITY Florencio "Butch" Abad was the guest speaker at "Pulong, Dulong" at InHot last Tuesday and eloquently talked about the controversial cash flow that would subsequently poverty in the country.

His lecture was easy to understand, perhaps because he's an academician. It was Secretary Abad who counseled me to continue my Internet Photo Safari after our first trip to JAVA. The plan: to validate that followed raised funds to restore one more house in Batanes. Abad's new project, aptly called "volunteurism," aims to restore more than houses. Interested parties may contact us.

Advocate

As a public servant, teacher and research advocate, Butch adheres to the highest tenets of professionalism, integrity and commitment. He graduated Cum Laude (he thinks) College of Law in 1985 as a scholar.

He is a leader in agrarian development, peace building, governance reform and education.

He is credited with helping reform the Liberal Party of which he was president from 1999 to 2004, as a reform-oriented political organization.

Cory Monteith is in no hurry to capitalize on fame

MONTEITH. Isn't afraid anonymity.

NEW YORK—Cory Monteith says he's a regular guy despite his success with "Glee." The 28-year-old actor plays Finn Hudson, a lovable dope who, in the quarterback of his high school football team, on the hit Fox series. Finn also has a good voice and sings in the school's choir, and he sometimes finds himself being pulled in both directions: Is he a jock or a crooner? Can't be he both? High school hasn't changed much.

While his character is unsure about where he stands, Monteith himself weaves between being on a Golden Globe-winning TV show and a kid from Canada who loves to perform. Can't be he both? He hopes so.

Monteith grew up with his

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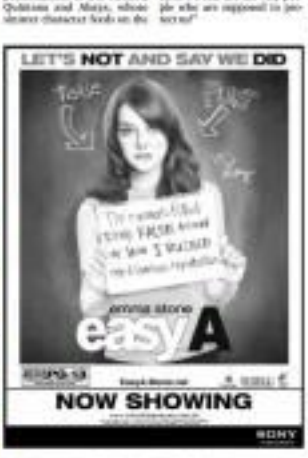
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